



GREEN LIGHT ON TRAVEL VISION

Report by Alex Ross

A 20mph speed limit in Dudley is part of a transport vision for the next 10 years which has been given the green light.

Improvements to the Midland Metro line and the redevelopment of Dudley bus station are also set out in the blueprint approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Entitled Movement for Growth, the strategy sets out the programme for transport projects over the next decade.

Some of the proposals are already under way, including work on a Midland Metro line from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill and the Merry Hill shopping centre.

But there are other major schemes for Dudley borough, including the 20mph speed limit in Dudley town centre and the redevelopment of the bus station.

Dudley Port station could also serve as a Metro stop on the Brierley Hill to Wednesbury line, and would also be improved under the plan.

There are also plans to improve bus journey times and road safety on the Wolverhampton Road and New Birmingham Road toward Dudley.

Prosperity

Councillor Roger Lawrence, lead member for transport at the WMCA, said: "The delivery plan maps out the way forward for transport in this region in delivering future prosperity."

"Now that this blueprint has been approved we can get to work in putting it into action."

"These are exciting schemes that will transform transport in our region and steer investment here to create new jobs and homes, building on the significant growth and development already happening through HS2."

The final plan was compiled after a six-week online public consultation. Funding for the programme is now being pursued.

The West Midlands Combined Authority approved the 2026 Delivery Plan for Transport at a meeting in Birmingham.

CHEERS! ARTIST DESIGNS BEER BOTTLE LABEL



Artist Warren McCabe-Smith, whose artwork is printed on 77,000 bottles of Woodsetton Pale Ale heading for Aldi stores

AN artist has been given the opportunity to showcase his talent with a design to adorn the front of more than 77,000 bottles of a Dudley brew being sold at supermarkets.

Warren McCabe-Smith, 37, from Quarry Bank, approached the owners of Black Country brewery Holdens, as the beer makers

approached their centenary, saying that he would be happy to help them mark the occasion.

He was asked to paint a portrait of the family but at the time he didn't know what his work would be used for. It now takes pride of place on the label of a new ale brought out to

mark the 100 year anniversary, called Woodsetton Pale Ale.

The beer will be sold in Aldi stores nationwide, to the delight of Warren, a fine art graduate from the University of Wolverhampton. He said: "As an artist I really have to work hard to get my name out there."

ACCIDENT

Pensioner dies after van collision

AN 88-year-old woman has died after being hit by an Iceland delivery van in Wordsley. Emergency services were called to Lawnswood Road at around 1.15pm on Friday. The woman was treated by paramedics but she later died in hospital. The driver stopped at the scene and is assisting the police with their investigations.

Sergeant Alan Wood, from the West Midlands Police Collision Investigation Unit, said: "We are appealing to anyone who witnessed the incident to contact us. The collision took place as the pedestrian crossed Lawnswood Road near to the Sainsbury's Local. Our thoughts at this time are with the family." Anyone with information can call the police on 101.

LEISURE

£6m 78-bed hotel to open its doors

A £6 million hotel will open in Dudley later this month. The Travelodge has been built near the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road.

The 1.5-acre site was previously occupied by the Royal Brierley Crystal factory.

The hotel will have 78 rooms and has created 20 jobs. The latest of the budget chain's hotels to open in the Black Country opens September 21.

BUSINESS

Job saved at kitchen equipment firm

ALL 40 jobs have been saved at a King'swinford catering equipment firm that has been bought out of administration.

Staffordshire-based Unitech Industries has bought Francis Catering Equipment and its Design Catering Equipment business in a rescue deal with administrators from FRP Advisory.

INSIDE

SHIRTS WILL STAY IN TOWN



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Missed targets could cost £250k

RUSSELLS Hall Hospital is set to lose out on more than £250,000 of funding because it is missing NHS waiting time targets.

Health chiefs in Dudley admit it 'seems likely' they will not receive as much cash from the Government as hoped due to the performance on waiting times.

The number of patients seen within four hours fell to 82 per cent in July from 90 per cent a month earlier. The nationwide NHS target has been set at 95 per cent. Efforts to get patients treated on time were hampered by an extra 100 ambulances arriving at the hospital during July compared with the previous month, bosses said.

Hospitals are awarded money from the Sustainability and Transformation Fund based on their success hitting performance and financial targets.

A report to board members at the Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs Russells Hall, said: "There is a significant risk regarding the performance against the four-hour target."

"It seems likely that the trust will lose 15 per cent (£0.257 million)."

Diane Wake, chief executive, said: "The trust receives Sustainability and Transformation Fund (STF) money for hitting financial targets and for achieving the four-hour emergency department standard. For the financial year 2017/18, the trust

has the opportunity to earn £8.574m from STF.

"If we don't achieve the four-hour target in quarter two (July to September 2017), we will not receive £257,000 of the available STF funds for 2017/18."

Russells Hall has struggled to cope with the number of patients attending A&E over the last year.

Bosses were forced to issue a plea last winter for people only to attend if they needed emergency treatment.

Waiting times had shown signs of improvement over the last few months but slipped back during July.

Accident has sparked calls for action on danger road

RESIDENTS fear it will take fatalities before something is done about a notorious stretch of road between Sedgley and Wombourne.

Last week a 24-year-old man was taken to hospital with multiple injuries after a smash between a car and a lorry in Wodehouse Lane, Gospel End.

Jane Kitchen, 53, who has lived in Gospel End for 17 years, said: "I realised something was wrong when I saw the ambulance in the field and I said to my husband 'oh not again'."

"The issue is there needs to be something done to slow the speed of traffic. It's gone on for years, what needs to happen is some sort of speed restriction. It will take several fatalities, until then nothing is going to happen. I think speed cameras are needed."

Victoria Stackhouse, manager of The Firs Care Home, on Wodehouse Lane, said: "I have worked at the home for many years, I used to live on the road as well, and I've seen many accidents over the years and deaths as well."

"The road was widened at one stage about 15 years ago because it was having accident after accident but in my opinion it has got a lot worse."

Staffordshire's Councillor Victoria Wilson, of Kinver ward, said: "On Wodehouse Lane, where the Firs Care Home is, we are looking at getting double yellow lines so people can't park on that busy corner. We are in negotiations to get that done."

Fizzogs fly out to the 'Big Oppe'

COMEDY troupe The Fizzogs are swapping the Black Country for the Big Apple as they are to perform in New York's Times Square

The comedy group, best known for their act The Dancing Grannies, have won lots of fans in American after their video of the grannies' dance routine went viral on the internet.

Fizzog Deb Nicholls said: "We are just going to rock up and see how New York reacts to us."

The trio, who regularly perform at events and venues in Dudley, also includes Jacky Fellows and Sue Hawkins.

Pub being turned into seven flats

A FORMER pub in Brierley Hill will be turned into flats after the plans were given the go-ahead by Dudley Council.

The Railway Inn, in Fenton Street, Brierley Hill, will be converted into seven apartments after an application by Maxwell Scott was approved.

Mineshaft will delay £2m treatment centre

THE opening of a £2.6 million emergency treatment centre at Russells Hall Hospital will be delayed due to problems over a mineshaft.

The new centre, designed to take pressure off A&E, could open up to five weeks later than planned as a capped mineshaft at the site must be registered with the National Coal Board.

The facility was expected to open at the start of November to coincide with the busy winter period but health chiefs could now be waiting until just before Christmas before it is finally up and running.

The discovery of the issue with the mineshaft has thrown a spanner into the works and delayed the opening date of the much-needed centre, possibly until December 11.

The setback was revealed in a report to board members of the Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs Russells Hall.

Weeks

It said: "We have been notified that the Dudley Emergency Treatment Centre is likely to be delayed up to a maximum of five weeks. The trust's estates team are meeting with the contractors to ascertain if this delay can be reduced."

"The original opening date was to be the November 1, 2017. The best case scenario for the revised timescale is that we can open on November 20, worst case scenario December 11, 2017."

"The reason for the delay is the designation of a capped mineshaft that has to be registered with the National Coal Board prior to the footings of the new build being commenced."

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust chief executive Diane Wake said: "The completion of our new Emergency Treatment Centre could be delayed by up to five weeks due to additional groundwork. No mineshafts have been identified that could impact on the build."

Fresh call for pallets ahead of bonfire



Jacki Wynn, John Allez and Councillor Ian Kettle are on the lookout for more pallets for the Himley Hall bonfire

THERE'S no smoke without fire and there's no fire without pallets - according to those in charge of Dudley's big bonfire night event at Himley Hall and Park.

Council chiefs have made a fresh appeal to businesses around the Dudley borough for wooden pallets to help stoke the huge bonfire to be lit on November 4 at Himley Park.

Last year, the event's 40th anniversary, saw more than 1,500

wooden pallets used to build the bonfire after an appeal to residents and businesses. The Guy Fawkes night festivities, which also features a fireworks spectacular set to music, regularly attracts around 20,000 visitors.

Council bosses are now appealing to companies for help by donating and delivering unbroken or unwanted wooden pallets.

Councillor Ian Kettle said: "The

fireworks and bonfire display at Himley is the largest council-run display in the country. Every year the event is tremendously supported by local companies donating huge numbers of pallets and we hope this time it will be no different."

He added that garden rubbish and old furniture could not be accepted. Call (01384) 817817 if you have pallets to offer.

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Club reopens but makes promise on funeral date

CHICAGO'S nightclub in Stourbridge town centre reopened on Friday, almost exactly a month after popular Black Country footballer Ryan Passey was stabbed to death on the premises.

The 24-year-old from Brierley Hill was fatally wounded at the club on August 6.

The venue was shut following a temporary licence suspension in the wake of the attack, but Dudley Council licensing bosses ruled the club could reopen with tightened security and safety checks.

Ryan's family and friends have launched a petition calling for the club to be closed down permanently. More than 3,500 have signed the petition.

A spokesperson for Chicago's confirmed that it would not be open on September 22, the date of Mr Passey's funeral at St James's Church in Wollaston.

Fellow Wolves fans paid tribute to Mr Passey with a minute of applause before the match against Millwall at Molineux on Saturday.

At Birmingham Crown Court last week, Kobe Murray, of The Broadway, Dudley entered a plea of not guilty to one count of murder.

The 19-year-old has been remanded in custody until January 24, when his trial, which is expected to last for two weeks, is due to start.

PM is urged to act on ivory ban

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin is calling on Prime Minister Theresa May to impose a total ban on the ivory trade in the UK - after a pledge to do so was dropped from the 2017 Conservative manifesto.

If the rate of killing continues as it is, elephants could be extinct in many parts of the wild within 15 years, said the Labour MP.

Mr Austin said: "Clearly something needs to be done to stop the killing of thousands of elephants at the hands of poachers each year."

"It's wrong that the Tories dropped their pledge for a total ban in the UK so I'm backing the campaign by Action for Elephants to put it back on the agenda. I have also called on China to end the illegal ivory trade."

Charity cafe opens

AGE UK Dudley has opened a community cafe and charity shop in Sedgley. The Sedgley hub in Ettymore Road is open 9.30am to 4.30pm from Monday to Saturday. More information is available on (01384) 883847.

Hundreds smile for Joel's charity at run



Suzy Evans and Owen Richards at the run

HUNDREDS of runners turned out for a celebration remembering the lives of three members of a family who were killed in the Tunisia beach terror attack.

It was on your marks, get set, go at Sandwell Valley Country Park where around 1,000 people got into their running shoes to raise funds for Smile for Joel.

The charity was set up by the family of victims Joel Richards, Adrian Evans and Patrick Evans, who were all from the Black Country.

It was an an emotional day for

Suzy Evans, from Wednesbury, who lost her son, brother and father in the 2015 attack, and her son Owen, who survived the atrocity, after so much hard work making the event possible.

Races

Run for Joel featured two competitive races, one 5km and the other 3km, while there was also a fun run for the youngsters. Thousands of pounds were raised for the charity, which supports families who have lost loved ones in tragic circumstances.

The final total is not yet known but

the weekend runs followed last year's event, which raised £27,000.

Friends and family rallied round, with one couple, Adam and Trudy Russell, from Wednesbury, even cutting short their honeymoon in Ibiza so they could make it.

Families of other victims, and survivors, also attended the event.

Joel, 19, was a talented football referee. His uncle Adrian, 49, a Sandwell Council worker from Bilston, and grandfather Patrick, 78, died alongside him in the terror attack which killed 30 British holidaymakers.

Motorist who hit people on crossing is jailed

A SPEEDING motorist who mowed two pedestrians, seriously injuring both, has been jailed for two years.

Stuart Knowles, aged 49 and Sharon Homer, 54, were both hurled more than 50ft when struck by the Astra driven by 22-year-old Ahsa Mehmood.

The motorist from Quarry Bank did not stop immediately although he did return soon after to give his details to police at the scene, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Experts estimated from CCTV that Pizza Hut manager Mehmood was doing 50mph in a 30mph zone moments before the collision and was still travelling at between 27 and 34 mph when the Astra hit the pair.

Mr Gareth Walters, prosecuting, explained that the traffic light controlling the crossing was in favour of oncoming traffic when the pedestrians tried to get to the other side of Rowley Regis High Street shortly after midnight on New Year's Eve.

The defendant braked when he saw them but stopped slowing down, thinking he could get past without hitting them. The pair were more than half way across when they saw the speeding Astra and tried to get out of the way.

"They were thrown 16 metres," said the prosecutor. Mr Knowles received multiple fractures of the skull together with injuries to his spine and a broken leg. Miss Homer had a broken pelvis and fractures to a rib and vertebrae.

Mehmood from Coppice Lane, who had not been drinking and was of previous good character, pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving. He is banned from driving for two years on release.



Ahsa Mehmood - sent to prison for two years

MP thanks medics who saved his life



From left, sepsis practioner Sian Annakin, Dudley South MP Mike Wood, Dr Ron Daniels (chair of the UK Sepsis Trust) and sepsis nurse Ash Evenson at Russells Hall Hospital

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood has thanked hospital staff who he says saved his life when he was diagnosed with a deadly blood condition.

The Conservative MP was given only a 10 per cent chance of survival when he was rushed into Russells Hall Hospital suffering

with sepsis earlier this year. But thanks to the efforts of doctors and nurses from the hospital's dedicated critical care team he managed to pull through.

Now Mr Wood is campaigning to raise awareness of sepsis, which can be fatal if it is not spotted quickly enough. Speaking ahead

of World Sepsis Day on Wednesday, Mr Wood said: "Russells Hall is well ahead of the game when it comes to both recognising sepsis and the level of care that is required. I was certainly lucky that I was admitted to this hospital and can only say a big thank you to everyone involved."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trouble-hit church appeals for funds

A CHURCH in Dudley hit by theft and anti-social behaviour is urging the public to help raise vital funds.

St John's Church in Kates Hill is launching the '177 Regular Givers' scheme, so supporters can donate a set amount to the preservation group every month. It comes as part of the church's 177th anniversary. It was reopened last year after it closed in 2002 over safety issues.

Recent thefts have seen the church close their charity sale room at the site. Louts were also spotted spitting and vomiting by a war plaque.

To offer support contact Deb Brownlee on 0787 119 5042.

Washing machine blamed for blaze

A FAMILY fled from their home in Brierley Hill after a fire was sparked by a washing machine.

The blaze started in the garage and spread to the kitchen at the house in Baxter Road at around 5.50am Sunday.

Two adults and two children got out before fire crews arrived and rescued a dog.

Crews from Brierley Hill Fire Station confirmed the fire was caused by a washing machine in the garage of the property. Both the garage and kitchen were damaged.

Derelict eyesore sold for £200k

A DERELICT pub targeted by vandals has been sold at auction for £200,000.

The Samson and Lion, in Newbolt Road, Bilston, closed more than 15 years ago and has been derelict since. It is now hoped the new owner will breathe new life into the eyesore as it was sold with planning permission for 10 homes.

It was auctioned off last Wednesday by agents SDL Bigwood. Planning permission has already been granted for two one-bedroom apartments and five two-bedroom apartments as well as three two-bedroom houses.

Archives want photos for local history day

A LOCAL history day is being held on October 7 at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre in Tipton Road from 10am to 4pm.

Organisers are asking people to bring along photographs and documents about soldiers from the borough to be copied to add to the centre's impressive collection.

There will be displays by family and history societies from the area and behind-the-scenes tours.

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COUNTY NEWS

Drive to get more men in social work

COUNCIL chiefs in Birmingham have backed a campaign to attract more men into social work.

Currently the child protection workforce is predominantly female, with only 14 per cent of roles taken up by men, whilst more than half of the children in care are boys.

The drive has been launched by social work charity Frontline, backed by Birmingham City Council - with 15.5 per cent of male social workers in children's services. Councillor Brigid Jones said: "As Ofsted confirmed earlier this year, we are now making steady progress in improving services for children."

Trust fun events for the autumn

THE National Trust has announced a series of events taking place in the West Midlands this autumn.

Between October 21 and October 31 Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton, will host Family Halloween Half Term Fun.

At Kinner Edge on October 23 there will be apple-pressing and hands-on crafts at the Trust's Rock Houses.

And on October 24 and 26 the same site will host lantern-making sessions. Finally there will be a Pumpkin Festival at Moseley Old Hall from October 23 to October 29 where people can carve pumpkins and take the insides home.

Learn about work of street pastors

A MEETING of street pastors is to take place. The event will be held to celebrate the work of the street pastors in Stourbridge.

Dave Watts, chairman of Stourbridge Street Pastors, said: "The evening will share the work we have done with our team and anyone who is interested from the community." It will take place at Bethel Chapel, in Lye, on Tuesday at 7.30pm.

For more information, call Alison Underwood on 07910 641833.

£6k raised for causes by Blakemore staff

STAFF from Blakemore Foodservice's Darlaston depot have handed over £6,000 to their two charities of the year for 2016-2017.

They selected the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and Chelsea's HLH Awareness Fund and have taken part in a number of activities over the 12 months to raise funds, including the recent Wolverhampton Half Marathon.

Cavern under zoo has tourist potential

TOURISM bosses are investigating whether to open an attraction at caves underneath Dudley Zoo.

Stores Cavern, created by limestone quarrying from 1750s to 1850s, was visited by Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman this week.

The caves feature Silurian limestone, which provide a unique look at the prehistoric seabed below Dudley's Castle Hill.

IT is rich with 400 million-year-old fossils and was also used as underground storage for ammunition during the war years.

Zoo director Derek Grove said opening the caves to the public could form part of plans for an education centre next to the car park at the Castle Hill attraction.

Existing maintenance buildings would be pulled down and replaced

by a new facility next to one of three openings to the cavern.

He said: "We are at the stage where we are exploring what we can do with the caves. The tunnel would require a lot of restoration and we would have to do a study the bats inside."

"But we hope one day it could be opened up for people to explore, adding another attraction to the zoo."

"The bonus about having the edu-

cation facility outside the zoo boundary is it could remain open out of hours and children would not have to climb the hill to get to it."

The tunnels are about 100 metres long, while the cavern itself is about 180m wide and 20m tall. Inside are brick storage buildings.

Mrs Norman said: "These caves have great potential as an education resource and visitor attraction."

Phone pest is detained for threats to mother

By John Scott

A 19-year-old from Dudley launched a hate campaign against the mother of a younger boy he met playing a game on the internet.

Husam Rodriguez contacted the 12-year-old boy through a video football game, in which players can communicate, in March 2015, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The defendant was claiming to be 14, called himself Bailey and offered to give the boy currency used to buy new players in the game if he started to text him.

"Whatever the truth of the relationship it was stopped by the boy's mother," said Mr Gareth Walters, prosecuting. But by February this year the boy had met a man called Bailey who gave him gifts, the court heard.

Messages

The mother, who lives in London, told the pest to leave her son alone, but to no avail. She alerted police who arrested Rodriguez on June 2. He was released on bail and phoned her almost immediately, saying: "I know you hate me. What you did today ruined my life." The next day he contacted her again implying he was in touch with 'others' prepared to attack her.

After being arrested again on June 6 and given bail, Rodriguez, of Bridge-water Crescent, started to bombard her with increasingly threatening WhatsApp messages.

Rodriguez, who had no previous convictions, was arrested for the third time on June 30 and this time he was kept in custody. Miss Molly Pinkus, defending, said: "He handed himself in to police and has not tried to evade his responsibility."

Rodriguez admitted witness intimidation and malicious communications. He will be detained in a Young Offenders Institution for 14 months.

Offers pouring in for arson-hit school



Site Manager Chris Smith, teaching assistant Ian Piotroqicz and deputy head Jodie Colbourne at the school's bird hide

A SPECIAL school's appeal has been answered with offers of help after a classroom was destroyed in an arson attack.

Pens Meadow School in Dudley made the plea for help to cover significant rebuild costs after the classroom, an outbuilding on the site, was targeted by vandals last month.

Deputy headteacher Jodie Colbourne said: "We are initially fundraising so that we can look at ways to secure our forest school area. We are concerned about ongoing vandalism and this needs to be our first priority."

"We will then be looking to develop the site so that we can continue to offer sessions to all of our pupils, including those with complex medical issues and wheelchair users that need shelter from inclement weather."

"Our bird hide has also been damaged and the site needs clearing of litter and broken glass that has been left by vandals. We have also set up a GoFundMe page, we have got a sponsored walk at the end of the month."

She said that it had been particularly difficult for the pupils because they had put a lot of work into the forest area project and were upset that some people wanted to destroy their facility.

Charity Friends of Alfie Johnson, which helps disabled children across Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, has offered a financial donation. NCB Scaffolding Specialists in Stourbridge has also signed up to help, and Brierley Hill Fire Service plan to run a car wash to raise funds. Visit www.gofundme.com/pens-meadow-forest-school

Disgraced ex-councillor on register for sex offenders

A DISGRACED former councillor who took hundreds of indecent images of boys to use in adverts has been spared jail.

Derrick Hemingsley, who was a representative for Wordsley on Dudley Council, took topless photographs of two boys aged under 14. They were used in adverts and websites to promote his car cleaning products business, Pride and Joy, where they attracted 'inappropriate remarks'.

A court heard last week that Hemingsley paid one of the boys up to £500 for taking part in the photo shoots.

Police recovered 469 'category C' images and 17 videos of the same classification from the 57-year-olds laptop. Category C is the lowest level of child pornography.

Hemingsley, of Penzer Street, Kingswinford, pleaded guilty to two counts of taking indecent photographs of children. His pleas were on the basis he had not considered the images to be indecent when he took them, which was accepted by Judge Amjad Nawaz at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

He sentenced Hemingsley to 10 months in jail, suspended for two years. He must also complete a rehabilitation programme, pay £500 costs and will be on the Sex Offenders Register for 10 years.

The court heard the defendant had been a magistrate, school governor, a church-goer and a prospective parliamentary candidate.

Judge Nawaz, said: "Yours is a spectacular fall from grace."

Defending, Mr Simon Hunka, said his client's business interests had been badly affected by his conviction.

After the hearing, Hemingsley said: "This has been a devastating time for not only me but for my family."

Roadworks due to end this month

WORK to improve road safety and reduce congestion at an accident black-spot in the Black Country is set to be completed by the end of this month.

The overhaul to the junction of Doulton Road and Dudley Road, in Rowley Regis, began in July.

The project was started after Sandwell Council bosses said the work to see traffic lights installed was needed after a review of accidents on that stretch of highway. A spokesperson confirmed it would be complete by September 30.

Over the summer motorists have experienced long delays during work on the busy route.

Meanwhile, Dudley Council has revealed work on the Dudley Road and Coombs Road junction in Halesowen will not restart until next year.

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Road rage driver waved knife at a motorist

A 'HARDWORKING' Romanian immigrant who pulled a blade out from his lunch box before waving it through his car window has been given a suspended sentence.

Knife-wielding Claudiu Popaz grabbed the three-inch blade, used to cut his salami, during the 'road rage' row, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 22-year-old father, of Kenilworth Court, Dudley, who came to the UK from Greece four years ago, claimed he brandished the knife after being threatened by another driver in Quinton.

Sentencing, Recorder Julian Taylor said: "I don't want to send a man to immediate custody who is in a job, is remorseful and has pleaded guilty at the first opportunity. I hope this is an isolated incident. You were in possession of a knife and you shouldn't have been. If you need to cut up your lunch, do it before you leave the house."

Plain-clothed police officers in an unmarked vehicle were observing Popaz after suspecting he was driving while using a mobile in Hagley Road West. Another motorist overtook Popaz's Ford Focus and when the two cars pulled up alongside each other at traffic lights officers spotted the defendant wave the blade through the window.

Popaz was handed an eight-month sentence, suspended for 18 months, ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work and pay £360 costs.

A new director for nurses' union

A MEDIC from Birmingham has taken over at the helm of a nurses' union in the West Midlands.

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has appointed Mike Adams as its new regional director. He has taken over from Paul Vaughan, who has moved to NHS England to take up a senior nursing position.

Mr Adams, who grew up in Harborne, said: "It's a privilege to hold this post.

"I am very aware of the challenges and stresses that many of our members face in nursing every day and I am totally committed to carrying on the good work that's been done in the West Midlands to support them and champion our profession."

Rector appointed

A NEW rector has joined the Church of England's Gornal and Sedgley team ministry. The Rev Guy Hewlett was licensed by Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Graham Usher, at All Saints Parish Church, Sedgley.

Factory's famous mosaic to be saved



The canal mosaic artwork in Tipton

A LANDMARK former ceramics factory in the Black Country could be given a new lease of life after standing derelict for more than 10 years.

The Roman Mosaic site, on Bloomfield Road, Tipton, has been targeted by arsonists and fly-tippers.

It was put on the market for more than half a million pounds last year and a sale has now been confirmed.

The factory, which is recognised by its notable chimney with 'Roman' written on it, also has a unique tile mosaic of a Black Country canal scene on the corner of the premises.

Chair of Tipton Civic Society, Keith Hodgkins, said: "I have heard that the site has been bought and could be turned into offices, but no plans have been put forward yet.

"It has looked a mess for some time now so to see something done with it will be great.

Initiative

"There is also an initiative by Tipton Community Association to get the mosaics preserved. They have been in contact with the new owners and they have kindly said that they can have it.

The plan is to re-erect it at the Brook Street Community Centre."

Former West Bromwich MP and House of Commons speaker, Baroness Betty Boothroyd, unveiled the canal mosaic artwork 20 years ago.

Meanwhile, an eyesore former steelworks site in Tipton has been put up for sale for more than £1 million.

The Corus warehouse, derelict for more than 10 years, is described as ideal for housing development by Bearwood-based property specialists Royal Estates. The plant closed with the loss of more than 100 jobs in 2003.

Duncan's three England shirts stay in home town

THIS is what remains of footballing great Duncan Edwards' memorabilia collection in the Black Country after the bulk of it was relocated to Old Trafford.

Dozens of items from Edwards' career have been transported to the home of his former team Manchester United after the club bought the collection from his family earlier this year.

It means that just four of Dudley-born Edwards football shirts – including three England shirts and a Brazil shirt – and four international caps will remain on display at the town's archives and local history centre on Tipton Road.

It follows months of talks between Dudley Council and the club, which resulted in a deal being agreed to ensure a small number of items remain in the town with other parts of the collection due to be loaned to the centre throughout the year.

Bosses at the authority have expressed relief that part of the collection will stay in Dudley following concerns that the entire collection would be sent to Manchester.

Legacy

However, the sale has been described as 'a tragedy' by a borough councillor Paul Brothwood, who says youngsters across the region will be deprived of seeing a full chronicle of the legacy of Dudley's greatest footballer.

"Duncan Edwards was a truly inspirational figure, not just in terms of his brilliance with a football but also as a great man," said Mr Brothwood, Dudley Council's UKIP leader. "It is a real tragedy that the majority of the collection appears to have headed out of the town.

"But at least a small number of items will remain

so people can still see his legacy in the town of his birth. Obviously there is nothing the council can do to influence a private deal between the Edwards family and Manchester United."

The full collection includes shirts, caps, medals, match programmes and photographs. It had been on loan to Dudley Council for years and was exhibited at the Dudley Museum and Art Gallery in the town centre until its closure.



Councillor Ian Kettle with Duncan Edwards' shirts, memorabilia on show at the archives centre

Councillor Ian Kettle, the council's cabinet member for regeneration, said the authority had negotiated with United to secure the loan of several items, which can be 'refreshed' throughout the year.

The items will be displayed at the archive centre's new Dudley Heroes gallery, which will also feature Netherton leaper Joe Darby's belts and Halesowen wheelchair tennis ace Jordanne Whitley's Wimbledon kit. The gallery will be officially opened by Ms Whitley when the museum opens officially on September 30.

Mr Kettle added: "This collection is extremely important to this borough. It tells the story of not only a local footballing hero, but one of the greatest players this country has ever produced. We will continue celebrating his name for generations to come."

NEWS IN BRIEF

More than £14k raised for hospice

A HOSPICE charity's annual family fun day at Oldswinford raised a record amount this year

Mary Stevens Hospice's community event in its grounds on Hagley Road brought in more than £14,000 after attracting a record number of visitors.

This year's event started with a parade through the streets of Oldswinford led by former X-Factor contestant Wagner.

Mayor of Dudley Dave Tyler and Wagner opened the event which also played host to live music and a football tournament refereed in part by hospice chief executive Steve Jackson and footballer James Chambers.

Town benefactor in the spotlight

THE life of a wealthy industrialist will be the subject of a history talk later this month.

Roy Peacock will be speaking to members of Stourbridge Historical Society about the town's greatest benefactor, Ernest Stevens. Born in Lye, Stevens made a fortune from the manufacture of pots and pans, and gifted land and property to Stourbridge, including Mary Stevens Park, named after Ernest's wife who died in 1925.

The talk in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall is on September 21 at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

Shakespeare gets Aussie makeover

AN Australian theatre company will bring its own musical interpretations of two classic stories to life next month in Stourbridge.

The Nuworks Theatre Company, from Melbourne, will be performing Snow White and Romeo and Juliet at Stourbridge Town Hall. Their version of the Shakespeare play is complemented by contemporary songs from artists such as Pink and Coldplay.

The double bill will be staged from 7.30pm on October 4, tickets cost £7, available by calling 0333 666 3366 or at www.stourbridgetheatre.co.uk

Innovation at health group is recognised

A HEALTH group has been named as one of the 50 most forward-thinking organisations in the Midlands.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group was commended by judges of Innovation 50. Paul Maubach, chief executive of Dudley CCG, said: "This recognition demonstrates the important role that healthcare organisations have in contributing to the success of our Midlands economy." Visit www.innovationfifty.com

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Rubbish system of these bin police

SOME things restore your faith in our public services, while others just leave you tearing your hair out.

On Saturday, I called in at my public library bang on 4pm, just as the doors were being locked. "Sorry, we're closed," said the librarian, which was fair enough. While it seems absurd that libraries now shut in mid afternoon, I knew the opening times, and had left it too late.

However, when I politely asked if I could return my books, she reluctantly relented, and I was out at 4.01pm. Nobody was really inconvenienced, and I went away with a higher opinion of the staff.

Now compare this with the "binspectors", who appear to be making a comeback across the region. Two local councils in the West Midlands recently announced they are employing folk to prod around our dustbins to see what is inside. Some people have reportedly been sent the characteristically pompous letters, in their trademark John Prescott grammar and pseudo-legalistic gobbledegook, threatening residents with fines of up to £2,500 and criminal records should they persist putting their rubbish in the wrong container.

These two stories show a marked contrast between the different attitudes which exist in local government. In the first instance, the librarian recognised that public service meant serving the public, in other words giving the punters what they want.

On the other hand, the "binspectors" – they hate that term by the way – and moreover, their employers, believe their role involves telling us what to do, or "changing attitudes and perceptions".

They are wrong. The council's job is to empty the bins. Not tell us how to use them.

□ □ □

AFTER losing a bet, Birmingham City fan Joe Lombardi agreed to have a picture of Harry Redknapp leaning out of his car window tattooed on his ankle.

I've never really got the appeal of tattoos. If I'm going to allow my body to be used as an art gallery or advertising hoarding, the least I expect is for the exhibitors to pay for the space. Indeed, it could be a nice little earner, selling parts of your body for commercial sponsorship. I'm sure if the price is right, I can be persuaded to have Bill's Pizza or Acme Double glazing etched onto my bum.

But given that Blues are on their third manager in nine months, you can't help but think Joe will regret his decision sooner rather than later.

Wouldn't you just love to see Joe's face if Harry crossed the city to Aston Villa?

New warning of ballistic missiles getting closer



Florence Parly – warning over North Korea and building of ballistic missiles



Kate Middleton – expect lots of coverage as baby number three is on the way



Jeremy Corbyn talks proudly of defending "the right to a nomadic way of life."

Another good reason to get out of Europe

THE French defence minister, Florence Parly, warns that North Korea may be closer than anyone thought to building ballistic missiles capable of hitting Europe. Another good reason to be leaving.

HOW justice works. On the day this week that local councils unveiled plans to slap £2,500 fines on householders who overload their wheelie bins, the Ministry of Justice revealed that 437 people who admitted crimes including blackmail, kidnap, rape and child abuse have been let off with a caution. Surprised? Nah, me neither.

I SWITCHED on Call You and Yours (Radio 4) to hear a particularly nauseating example of that dreadful modern language we might call social workerese. A caller, close to tears, described how her family had been shattered by the sudden death of a little child. The interviewer replied: "It must change the family dynamic." Ye gods and little fishes.

ANOTHER family dynamic is being changed. "We just can't wait to meet baby number three!" gushes the Daily Mail as Kate and William announce another pregnancy. Who might this "we" be? Even those of us who support a constitutional monarchy have had quite enough from the Windsor photo-opportunity factory for one year, thanks. On top of Prince Philip's retirement, Princess Di memories and wall-to-wall coverage of Harry and his girl, endless dissection of Kate's progress will give us all morning sickness.

ACCORDING to the latest British Social Attitudes Survey, for the first time ever more than half of adult Brits claim to follow no faith. Hal-

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



lelujah. Losing our religions may be one of the main benefits of a multicultural society. There was a time when we all believed that kindness and charity flowed from the assortment of gods, prophets, saints and holy men we chose to worship. But in today's Britain we see people helping at disasters and being inspired not by Bronze Age superstitions but by common human decency. It is a sobering moment the first time a religious person sees an atheist putting his or her life on the line for others. To do good in the belief that you will be rewarded in heaven is fine. But doing good for its own sake, with no expectation of harps, angels and eternity, has got to be better. Religion divides, humanity unites.

AND off to the optician for a new treatment. This involves a tiny vibrator which is run along the rims of your eyelids, tickling your lashes and scattering the accumulated crud and eye-mites of many years. Ordeal by eyelid-tickler feels exactly as it sounds and if you don't squirm like a serpent and laugh like a drain throughout, then your giggle buttons probably need adjusting. It reminded me of that unfortunate incident at the dentist's as a small boy (when I was a small boy, that is, not the dentist). He was running the high-pressure water jet around my molars when he suddenly touched one end of a nerve which ran deep into the body. I instantly wet myself. I don't recall anybody laughing.

FROM time to time things go terribly wrong.

An airliner crashes. A block of flats goes up in flames. Girls are sexually abused by organised gangs. And then, after the initial shock, it is revealed that everyone knew there was a problem all along but everyone chose to look the other way. It's only after the event that we raise our hands in horror and demand to know why, when all was known, nothing was done. And if you want to see a new national scandal brewing, look no further than Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World (C5) where we meet children of nine and 13 who have never been to school and whose parents, being semi-literate, cannot possibly educate them.

THE problems caused by travellers are usually reported in terms of caravan invasions, intimidation, crime and the filth left behind. But this series is a reminder that parts of the Traveller community are not only troublesome but deeply troubled.

If you take your kids out of school for a few days in term time, the education authorities may well impose a steep fine or take you to court. Yet the non-attendance at school by thousands of traveller children is simply ignored. All politicians talk about the importance of education, freedom and the right to choose a better future. But on this issue, with generation after generation trapped in a no-hope web of illiteracy, those same politicians choose to look the other way and ignore child-neglect on a massive scale. Sometimes politicians even romanticise it. Jeremy Corbyn talks proudly of defending "the right to a nomadic way of life." What about the right of these traveller kids to choose another sort of life?

TALKING POINT



Loyalty to fat cats is costing our grannies

HOW would you feel if you heard that someone had ripped off your granny for £500? Then you found out that they had been dipping into her finances on an annual basis.

We are not talking about an opportunist purse thief or even some doorstep con artist. This is happening perfectly legally... and it's a disgrace.

The culprits? The insurance industry. The fat cats who run this multi-billion pound industry know full well that many of their elderly loyal customers don't know their iPad from their elbow.

Apologies to the savvy silver surfers, but in an ageing society where many live into their 80s, 90s or even long enough to get a letter from the Queen, there are thousands of elderly people who never go online.

They don't own a computer and probably don't want to. It is difficult to tap away at a keyboard with arthritic fingers or peer at a screen when your eyesight is not what it was.

Many of these people belong to a generation when it was considered shameful to owe money or to even be late paying a bill. How times change.

But this means that they often fall foul of the automatic renewal, when the insurance company offers you another year of 'the same great cover' without any bother. Avoiding the 'bother' can prove costly, especially as loyalty appears to be a one-way street when it comes to the insurers.

Year on year those buildings and contents premiums increase. A person who set up a direct debit years ago could easily be paying £500 over the average deal available elsewhere.

Back in 2013, The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) admitted automatic renewal leads to customers being treated unfairly. But still it goes on.

New rules introduced this year have forced insurers to tell buyers at the renewal stage what their premium was the year before. The FCA say that measure alone should save consumers more than £100m, by alerting them to the scale of the premium increase.

But this will not alert everyone to how much less they could be paying for the same cover elsewhere.

The elderly are probably the worst hit group but any loyal customer who doesn't make price comparisons can be preyed on in this way. It is time our MPs took on the insurance industry to end this cynical exploitation.

Check your policy, particularly if you pay by direct debit and, if you have elderly relatives or friends, check their policy too.

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Decent people are no longer valued

AFTER having chats with friends and neighbours, we have reached the conclusion that decent honest people are no longer valued in this country.

Decisions are being made by the new rich on things which no one really wants except the powerful lobby. For example, HS2.

Who is this being built for? Not the ordinary folk who won't be able to afford to travel on it anyway; disrupting many and forcing people to move from homes they may have worked hard for

all their lives; ruination of flora and fauna.

None of these projects is ever delivered on time, or on budget.

Tower blocks being designed and built with only one staircase in case of emergency, what good is this?

Criminals getting the soft treatment as a result of their crimes. For example, driving while disqualified with no insurance and killing an innocent person with a vehicle. Surely this should be murder as a motor vehicle in the

wrong hands is a lethal weapon? A few years of disqualification is just laughable, as most of these people will no doubt do the same thing again because of the leniency given them. Is it not also about time that cyclists should be insured as a matter of course?

As a disabled person, my scooters are both insured.

I could go on but I am sure that you get my drift.

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

Speed limit is in place for a reason

IS it me getting older or do we really have a problem with speeding motorists on our local roads?

My trips around the area seem to get more hair-raising every day, especially the Dudley Southern Bypass, which has a maximum speed of 40mph. Cars pass me all the time at what seems more like 60mph and undertaking is commonplace especially during the evening rush hour.

If I see this every day, why do the police not act? Let's not wait for a serious accident before action is taken, all it needs is mobile cameras along the route.

But it is not just that road, everywhere speed limits are ignored except for the places where there are static cameras. Speed limits are there for a reason, and are the maximum speed given ideal conditions. Any fool can push their right foot down but there is nothing clever about going fast. Safety is the key.

RON GWILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Start to cut the debt with wages at BBC

WE are the fifth richest country in the world they say – but we owe £1.73 trillion. Now my major concern is the payments to BBC staff. The salaries recently highlighted are ridiculous.

The highest paid woman, who I believe is the daughter of a former media mogul, makes you wonder why all these highly-paid women have complained about equal pay with men – I trust they want men's pay to be reduced to the women's. The reason they, all of them, are paid so extravagantly is because the BBC gets so much public money. This money is given to them by a tax on a television licence which the Chancellor of the Exchequer could divert to the NHS and allow the BBC a more reasonable amount. There are plenty more TV stations so viewers won't go short.

W ROUND
Kingswinford

Anything to say on HS2 Gavin?

I DON'T suppose I am alone in wondering what planet South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson is on.

First he pats himself on the back for the possible relocation of D X Freight from Essington, loss of jobs and revenue to the area.

What is it about Essington? Only claim to fame – fruit farm and a boot sale.

Now he wades in with his support against further industrial development to create 8,500 jobs plus by 'Four Ashes Ltd' a proposal to create a rail/road freight hub – much-needed.

I do so hope Four Ashes are successful led by Peter Frost. Oh, Peter, as a former lorry driver, please don't forget a good hard surface LGV park and good food and ancillary services for drivers.

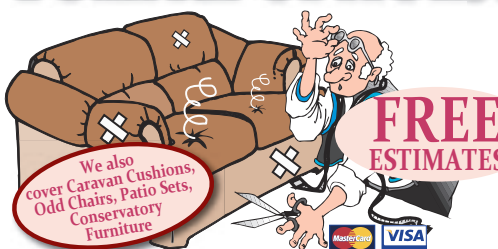
Memo to Mr Williamson – what about the carnage caused by HS2, or have you been told to keep quiet about this white elephant?

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Gas plant to heat 2,700 homes on food waste



Severn Trent Water's new renewable gas from waste food plant at Roundhill, near Stourbridge

SEVERN Trent Water has started operations at its latest green gas plant.

The facility uses anaerobic digestion to turn food waste from businesses and customers unfit for human use into clean power.

The site in Roundhill, near Stourbridge, will be able to turn almost 50,000 tonnes of food waste a year into gas, which will be injected into the network for use in homes and businesses.

It is Severn Trent's second food waste anaerobic digestion plant, following on from the success of the existing plant in Coleshill, which has been operating since 2015.

Chris Jellett, from Severn Trent, said: "We're really excited to see the new plant at Roundhill become operational."

"Simply put, we take food that can't be eaten or used for any other purpose from local businesses and waste management companies and put it into

huge vats that effectively digest it, like in your stomach, to produce biogas, which then goes through another process to be converted into gas.

"The process also makes sure food waste doesn't end up going to landfill, with any packaging we remove at the plant sent for further energy recovery."

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Pudsey can bank on school support across the borough

BBC Children in Need is back this year and schools in Dudley are all being urged to take part. The event will climax with the BBC Children in Need appeal TV night on November 17.

On the day, school pupils from across the Black Country and beyond will take part The Big Spotacular, raising money for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK.

Last year's campaign saw Lickhill Primary School in Stourport raise £37,736 in support of the charity.

To get started, schools and nurseries are invited to register for the 2017 Big Spotacular fundraising kits. Lloyds Bank is helping run this year's event.

But time is running out to apply for a fundraising pack with schools urged to register before tomorrow (Friday) at bbchildreninneed.co.uk/schools website.

Tanya Rabin, BBC Children in Need partnership lead at Lloyds Banking Group, said: "We are thrilled at how much schools in Dudley have raised for BBC Children in Need through the Big Lloyds Bank Spotacular and we hope their success so far will encourage otherschools to join in with The Big Spotacular."

"The partnership has played an important part of the Group's Helping Britain Prosper Plan, helping tackle disadvantage and improving young people's lives for the better."

Spice up your life at city's chilli festival

BIRMINGHAM Chilli Festival is back, at Brindleyplace on Saturday.

There will be the annual chilli themed market along with nerve-wracking challenges.

The festival will be raising the stakes with a 100ft forward-facing abseil from number 4 Brindleyplace to raise funds for one of their 2017 charity partners, Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity.

Nathan Sanghera, Marketing and Events Executive at Brindleyplace, said: "We wanted to shift gears and take this year's chilli festival to the extreme."

The festival is between 11am and 7pm in Central Square. Find out more at www.brindleyplace.com website.

Cupid sells for three times the estimate



Will Farmer with the marble sculpture that fetched £91,000 at Stourbridge

AN auction of the contents of a country house near Stourbridge raised hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The items were put up for sale by the owners of Wordsley Manor and formed the bulk of 690 lots that went under the hammer at Stourbridge auctioneers Fieldings on Saturday, drawing bids from America, Japan, Australia and Russia.

A 19th-century carved marble sculpture of Cupid taming the lion by Italian sculptor Emanuele Caroni fetched the highest price when it was bought for £91,000 by a UK-based specialist dealer. That was more than three times the estimate.

Will Farmer, a Fieldings director and expert on TV's Antiques Roadshow, said: "I expected it to perform well and was very pleased, but not surprised, by the final price."

Among other big ticket items was a 19th-century French marble bust, Marguerite, that fetched £8,600.

A painting by 19th century British artist Alfred Pollentine of a scene in Venice sold for £4,000.

The auction was very well attended but a lot of the bidding was done via the internet. The items that went under the hammer ranged from ceramics, glass and jewellery to paintings, prints, furniture and collectables.

Mr Farmer added: "We did not sell absolutely everything but there were only a smattering of odds and ends that were not sold."

Lifecentral church open new building

THE opening of a newly-refurbished auditorium at a Black Country church has been hailed as a part of its future 'legacy'.

Lifecentral Church, formerly known as The Zion Christian Centre, has been based in Halesowen for 40 years. In 2015 half of the building was extensively damaged by a devastating fire.

Now a new 400-seater auditorium with offices and toilets has been built at the site in Little Cornbow and will officially on Sunday.

Since the early 1980s the church has been in the centre of the town, known for carrying its youth work and its range of community activities.

Pastor Leon Evans said: "After 12 years of exploring many options – and a major fire just over two years ago – we are excited to be opening a new multi-purpose 400-seat auditorium for the church and wider community."

Last Easter the Zion Christian Centre, as it was previously known, changed its name to Lifecentral Church. It also was launched in Hagley, where – apart from September 17 – meetings are held at 4.30pm every Sunday at Haybridge High School and Sixth Form, in Brake Lane.

The opening of the building in Little Cornbow will also see a dedication service on Sunday at 9.30am and 11.30am in the new auditorium.

Best of veg at annual horticultural show

ROWLEY Regis Horticultural Society will be holding their annual vegetable and flower show on Saturday.

It is at the Rowley and Blackheath Labour Club in Hawes Lane from 6pm and is free admission.

Prizes will be presented by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris. Vegetables and cakes will be sold from 7.15pm.

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Firm aim to clean up on driverless sweeper

A NEW driverless electric road sweeper is being developed by a firm in Dudley.

Westfield Autonomous Vehicles, part of Westfield Technology Group – including Westfield Sportscars – at Gibbons Industrial Park, Kingswinford, is behind the project.

The firm is working with Johnston Sweepers and Fusion Processing to make the UK's first fully autonomous pure electric road sweeper.

Meanwhile, it is also working to create a twin drive all-electric jet ski with Potenza Technology.

Both projects are being funded by the Niche Vehicle Network.

Westfield chief executive Julian Turner said: "A fully autonomous road sweeper could revolutionise town centre sweeping, improving the environment for residents and businesses. This is an exciting opportunity to develop the technology for use at airports and on roadwork sites."

On the jet ski, the two businesses aim to improve hydrodynamic efficiency and produce a vehicle that has enhanced safety, lower emissions and decreased noise pollution.

Electric vehicle pioneer Westfield LAO recently agreed a £30 million supply deal with South Korea for autonomous electric pod vehicles.

Survivor didn't know her friend was dead



University student Rebecca McManus was a promising poet

THE friend of a woman who was killed by a speeding driver on Hagley Road West has spoken of her struggle to cope in an online blog.

Rebecca McManus, 21, of Oldbury, was killed in May 2014 by Sukvinder Mannan from Halesowen, who was racing another driver at 100mph when he smashed into a bus stop where former Stourbridge student Rebecca and friend Harriet Barnsley, 18, were waiting. Mannan was jailed.

Harriet was seriously injured in the incident and spent three months in a coma. In her blog, titled 'This Too Shall Pass', she has written of her efforts to recover.

She reveals that said she was not informed of her childhood friend Rebecca's death for weeks after regaining consciousness, writing: "I had a feeling that something was wrong, because she didn't visit me during the three months I spent in hospital."

Realisation

"When my parents eventually told me, I didn't really understand. I don't remember any point at which the news sank in. It was more of a gradual realisation, which I think made it easier to handle."

Harriet, from Birmingham has tried her best to remain upbeat. She wrote: "I don't sit there and moan about how unfair it is. Very simply, because I lived to tell the tale."

Rebecca's father Gerard McManus launched a campaign calling for drivers convicted of causing death by dangerous driving to be banned for life.

Rebecca had studied for her A-levels at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge and had been nearing the end of her three-year English Literature with Creative Writing course at the University of East Anglia when she was killed.

Mersey nurses bid

A BLACK Country hospital team has visited Liverpool in a bid to recruit more nurses.

The RCN nursing recruitment event took place on Merseyside last week.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs City, Sandwell and Rowley Regis Hospitals, as well as Leasowes Intermediate Care Centre, was on the lookout to recruit qualified nurses.

Paul Hooton, deputy chief nurse said: "We know that the Black Country is a great place for all to live and work. By going to Liverpool this year, we hope to attract more talent to come to this wonderful place and help us improve our patient experience even more."

Shell out plea by councillor for memorial at road junction

A FUNDRAISING campaign to bring an artillery shell back as an Halesowen landmark has been relaunched.

Campaigners are appealing for donations to get a decorated artillery shell installed on Shell Corner once again, after one stood there after the First World War.

Halesowen ward councillor Stuart Henley said the shell would also be a memorial for remembrance of those who died.

A First World War shell stood in the area from 1924 to 1937 – how Shell Corner got its name – but it disappeared following changes to road layouts. Now Councillor Henley has relaunched a fundraising campaign as part of the project, which would see a

planter installed to hold the shell. He launched the campaign last year and managed to raise £340, but that is way off the £8,000 needed.

He was given a new artillery shell to be put on display by a bomb squad in Essex around 18 months ago. Students from Halesowen College have Poppy Day inspired art work onto it. To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/returnoftheshell

It's a girl! Lemur's gender discovered

A change in fur colour has revealed a rare black lemur baby – the first to be born at Dudley Zoo – is a girl.

She was born to first-time mother Barbara and father Bryan on May 15 and has been named Kimmy by keepers.

Despite the species name, only the males are black in colour, as the females turn brown a few weeks after birth. She is the zoo's first baby black lemur in more than a decade.

Dudley Zoo is particularly delighted as it plays a key role in the conservation battle of its vulnerable species, and is the European Endangered Species Programme studbook holder for the entire European captive population.

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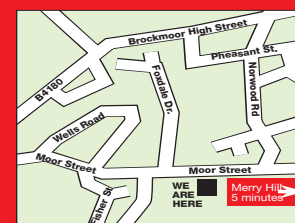
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Muddy good idea for outdoor play



Halesowen couple Becky and Dave Roberts with one of their Puddy Muddles Mud Kitchens, available online

A COUPLE from Halesowen making their own 'mud kitchens' have been flooded with orders from across the UK just weeks after launching a new venture aiming to get more children playing outdoors.

Puddy Muddles Mud Kitchens is the brainchild of Becky and Dave Roberts, selling their own hand-crafted outdoor play stations made from reclaimed pallets.

Puddy Muddles started when Dave, who works in gym equipment sales, built a mud kitchen for their daughter from spare pallets in their Halesowen garden.

After catching the eye of friends and family on social media, the couple started taking commissions for the sets – which come with kitchen utensils and a mixing bowl for messy garden play – and have been inundated with orders.

Charity hit hard by cuts

A CHARITY that had its funding cut is now having to sell off four minibuses to keep operations running after leaving its base of 20 years.

Age Concern chose to leave the Mary Stevens Day Centre in Stourbridge after all of its service level agreement funding from Dudley Council was removed in April.

In a bid to raise enough cash to keep running, the charity has made eight staff cuts and put the minibuses up for sale, after losing more than £21,000 a year. The minibuses were used to transport elderly service users to and

from the centre and for day trips.

Chief Officer Dionne Legge, aged 45, said "We have been in this building for 20-plus years, it was like a second home. It's stopped us being able to offer a day care service in Stourbridge. It's quite sad because I believe we're all doing such good work."

"Over the years the council have been very supportive and very kind. I don't think they have had much fun in telling us all we have lost our funding, but unfortunately there's repercussions."

"There were so many people out

there being helped at a reasonable cost and now, unfortunately, we're having to skin ourselves back to the bone. Who's going to look after these people?"

Many of the 70 members have found the Age Concern-operated Green Lane day centre in Halesowen too far to reach, and their Elton Centre in Stourbridge is not suitable as a day care venue.

White House Cancer Support, also affected by the cuts, have been forced to shelve expansion plans as a result.

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It's silent but sinister – burglar's best trick

"IT is quick, easy and quiet," – It sounds like an advert promoting the local library but actually the truth is far more sinister.

Unfortunately that is West Midlands Police's description for 'lock snapping' which has emerged as a prominent form of burglary in the Black Country this year.

Armed with just a pair of pliers and a screwdriver intruders can now force their way into people's homes in less than a minute.

And what has the force 'worried' is that unlike other crude methods of entry, this does not involve smashing glass or breaking down doors. It can be carried out almost completely silently. As a result thieves are targeting more homes at night – while people are still in bed.

Detective Sergeant Leighton Shingles, part of the force's High Harm team, said: "It has definitely become a method of entry we are seeing more often. Ever since January we are noticing it regularly. The worrying thing is that they are being committed while people are in the house. It takes a matter of minutes."

So what exactly is lock snapping? The first bit of bad news is that the ideal targets are Euro profile cylinder locks, which are fitted to several million uPVC doors throughout the country.

It works by removing the plastic covering and gripping the protruding lock mechanism – where you put the key – with some sort of tool.

A set of pliers will do but career burglars may opt for an aptly named 'snapper bar' which can be picked up from most locksmith merchants for



No glass smashing or breaking down doors

around £50 or less. At the risk of this becoming a 'how to' guide, aspiring burglars will have to figure the final part out themselves. However, it would seem scores of desperate criminals have already cottoned on in the Black Country with West Midlands Police now declaring lock snapping is the 'method of choice' for forcing entry into homes.

Warnings

The force has issued multiple warnings to residents this year, particularly via its fledgling WMNow alert service, that this is the way homes are being broken in to in 2017.

In March houses on Hodges Drive and Darby's Hill Road in Tividale were targeted and properties in Brickhouse Lane and Woolpack Close in the West Bromwich area were also raided.

More recently Milking Bank in Dudley and parts of Halesowen have seen similar incidents.

Walsall residents have been hit by several 'lock snap' break-ins in the last two months with houses in Chestnut Close in Streetly, The Berkshire in Turnberry, and Tetley Avenue, just north of Walsall Arboretum, all proving vulnerable. On the back of the latter incident, Kevin Pitt, police, engagement and consultation officer in Walsall, said: "Lock snapping is becoming burglars' entry method of choice as it is quick, easy and quiet."

Laptops, jewellery and cash have been the obvious targets. But car keys have become the ultimate prize with the rear patio doors to a home now seen as a gateway to driving off in a £30,000-plus high performance vehicle.

But there are counter measures have since been developed. There are several 'anti-snap' locks on the market which can be picked up for less than £20. A cheaper option for patio doors comes in the form of a Patlock, which fits around the door handles. And even cheaper still are 'sash jammers' which prevent windows and doors from opening.

They are available for less than £10 each and recommended by police.

DS Shingles added: "We would urge people to check things like the security of their side gates, or if they have security lights and CCTV make sure they are working."

West Midlands Police has had to deal with a minimum of 2,000 burglaries a month across the region since last September. Home security is available at www.securebydesign.com

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GET SAVING ON ENERGY BILLS IN PREPARATION FOR WINTER WITH DUDLEY'S BIG SWITCH

With autumn soon taking its hold Dudley Borough residents are being encouraged to get saving on their energy bills before winter bites.

Dudley Council is urging people to sign up to its latest Big Switch energy switching scheme. The scheme offers residents market leading deals on energy which are not available elsewhere. Residents who have registered at previous auctions have saved up to £300 on their home energy bills, so it's well worth getting registered.

The Big Switch brings people together to reduce their energy bills by switching their energy suppliers collectively. The more people who register the better the deals on offer, as it is based upon the bulk buying concept.

The deals offered by the Big Switch are not available elsewhere, and it has been recently reported that up to sixty percent of top energy deals are not available on the standard switching sites. To get the best deal it is well worth registering.

In recent month's five of the 'Big six' energy providers have announced price hikes for people on standard variable rate tariffs, with British Gas announcing a 12.5 percent rise in its electricity prices. The majority of people are on standard variable tariffs (sixty-six percent according to Ofgem) and can potentially therefore make significant savings by signing up to switch.

Since the scheme began in June 2013 the collective savings made by borough residents has topped half a million pounds.

The latest Big Switch has launched this week. To take advantage of the cut price rates offered, people are encouraged to call 0300 555 2345 to register, or you can register online at www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch. People will need to have their current tariff details and fuel usage (shown in the most recent bill) to hand.



The scheme is open to all householders, including people living in rented accommodation, those with a prepayment meter and people with a fuel debt of up to £500 or less.

Cllr Les Jones, cabinet member for housing, said:

"Our Big Switch energy auctions have proved extremely popular over the last few years with thousands signing up to take part and saving hundreds of pounds on their home energy bills. The deals offered through the scheme are market leading, so people will be getting real value for money. With winter on its way now is the ideal time to be registering to save, as well as keeping warm and well at home."

To find out more call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch.



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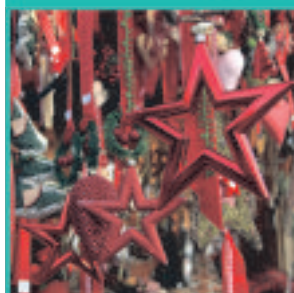
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17 Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, September 14, 2017



Tony Mason, from Halesowen, at Dudley Coroner's Court



Ikram Rafique in St Matthew's bell tower



Trainee curator Holly Godward at the Black Country Living Museum



James Nicholls from Wednesfield with volunteers at Moseley Old Hall



Alison Hyatt and Anne Willetts at Haden Hill



Kim Tedstone and Brooke Whitehouse visit the coroner's court

Autumn fun is planned by the National Trust

THE National Trust has announced a series of events taking place in the West Midlands this autumn.

Orchard Day will be celebrated at Dudmaston Hall, near Bridgnorth, on October 15 with lots of apple produce available.

Between October 21 and October 31 Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton, will host Family Halloween Half Term Fun with children invited to don their most frightening fancy dress and take part in an outdoor pumpkin trail.

At Kinver Edge on October 23 there will be apple-pressing and hands-on crafts at the Trust's Rock Houses. On October 24 and 26 the same site will host lantern-making sessions before a procession of lights and pumpkins in the woods at Kinver Edge.

There will be a Pumpkin Festival at Moseley Old Hall from October 23 to October 29 where people can carve pumpkins and take the insides home.

A spokesperson for the National Trust, said: "Autumn is the perfect time to get outside with the family and create unforgettable moments."

"With all kinds of events from fancy dress to pumpkin-carving to lantern-making, it'll be impossible for the kids to get bored this autumn half-term."

Sir Simon coming back to Birmingham

INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED conductor Sir Simon Rattle is to return to Birmingham, the city where he made his name with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the 1980s and 90s.

The 62-year-old has been principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic since 2002 and is becoming musical director of the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) this month.

He brings the LSO to Symphony Hall for Mahler's Ninth Symphony on May 1. See www.thsh.co.uk website.

Building on the past at open days

HISTORIC buildings in the Black Country gave visitors a unique insight into the past at a series of open days over the weekend.

Sites such as the Black Country Living Museum, Haden Hill Museum and Dudley Coroner's Court took part in Heritage Open Days, a nationwide effort to celebrate the history and culture behind some of the area's oldest buildings.

At the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road, Dudley, curators showed some of the sites of hidden treasures, offering a chance to find out the stories that lie behind some lesser-known pieces of the 80,000 objects stored at the museum.

At Haden Hill Museum on Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, an afternoon of live jazz was organised, where Union Jack flags flew proudly, as the venue itself was opened up for people to see in all its glory.

Guests were given a chance to unlock and discover some of the secrets of the attic and store rooms at the Victorian gentleman's residence.

At Moseley Old Hall, near Wolverhampton, visitors were thrown straight into the middle of an historic adventure from the building's past. For just 70 hours in 1651 Moseley Old Hall protected the future King of England, Charles Stuart, from discovery by Parliament soldiers during the civil war. Fearing for his life, the

future King Charles II hid, helped by a family with Royalist sympathies after his army was defeated at the Battle of Worcester.

Costumed characters brought the story to life over the weekend, with visitors getting in on the action, too.

A rare opportunity for people in Dudley was the chance to see inside the Grade II listed Coroner's Court, in St James's Road, Dudley.

It was designed by Harvey and Wicks and built between 1924 and

1928 as part of a group of civic buildings which also includes the Town Hall and the Memorial Tower. The courtroom has remained largely unchanged and retains its original fittings and furnishings.

In Walsall, people had a chance to step back into the past at the Locksmith's House on New Road, Willenhall, or visit the tower at St Matthew's Church in Walsall.

Nationally, Heritage Open Days involves 5,000 events.

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Simple steps homeowners can take now to protect their assets.

Head of April King Legal Paul King explains why some homeowners are doing **too little, too late** to protect their hard-earned assets.

Care Cost Fees

"A lot of people are still unaware that if they need care in later life, their assets will be means-tested by the Local Authority to help pay for these services."

"The Local Authority will look to use the assets of a person until they get down to a lower limit of £14,250, when the Local Authority will take over the fees."

"For instance, my own grandmother sadly passed away recently at the age of 92. My grandfather had died many years earlier and left everything to her."

"When she needed care in the last six years of her life, because my grandfather had left everything to her, the house and all the estate was counted in the Local Authority's means test."

"Our clients tell us, 'We've worked hard all our lives, why should the Local Authority get it all?'"

"Just as she died, she had gone down to that lower limit of £14,250 and that's all her children inherited."

"There are many myths about the steps people can take to protect their assets from being used like this."

"The main one is that a parent should simply sign their house over to the children now, so it won't be taken into consideration for means testing. That's just not true."

"Local Authorities will actually look to see if you've 'deliberately deprived' yourself of an asset by giving property away, going back over any period in time."

"Sometimes people think that if the gift is made seven years prior then the house is safe. This is not so as the seven-year rule only applies to Inheritance Tax and not Local Authority care."

"The solution is for couples to simply not leave everything to each other in the first place."

"What my grandfather could have done is leave his half of the house in trust to his children, stating that they couldn't have it while his wife, my grandmother, was still alive. We call these Property Trust Wills."

"If my grandfather had left his half of the house in trust to the children then when my grandmother subsequently received care in her later life she would only have been means tested on her own half of the house, but my grandfather's half would have been safe."

"Why should he have to contribute his half when he didn't receive any care?"

"The important factor is that couples need to act in advance. Once one party dies or loses mental capacity, through a stroke for example, then they are no longer in a position to do this legitimate and straightforward type of planning."

"It is therefore important for couples to act now even if they may not foresee care fees being an issue."

Paul goes on to explain that most clients he sees are surprised to learn remarriage usually cancels a Will and makes the spouse next in line to inherit, ahead of their own children! Protecting your half of the house in this way, he suggests, ensures that your children ultimately inherit when the survivor dies.

"Had my grandmother remarried after the death of my grandfather the whole estate could have passed sideways out of the family," says Paul.

Lasting Power of Attorney

Paul explains how people often get confused thinking that, because they have made a Will, their executors can also deal with assets if there is illness, stroke or some other form of incapacity while they are still alive.

"Everyone should actually have two documents – a Will that deals with their estate on death, and a Lasting Power of Attorney that deals with their estate during their lifetime," he says.

"There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney – one deals with finance, the other deals with health and welfare."

"In many ways it's similar to a passport; a document that's registered now and one which can be physically handed to the attorneys should the need arise."

"It allows the attorneys, perhaps the children, to deal with the banks and pension companies etc should their parent become incapacitated, but also to deal with matters such as where the parent should be living and how they should receive care."

"Your attorneys, again perhaps your children, must legally act in your best interests at all times."

"You can choose a number of attorneys to act, either jointly or independently, and April King advises on the various options available."

"Couples are often surprised to discover that even joint bank accounts can be frozen until the bank sees sight of a Lasting Power of Attorney document."

"Having a Lasting Power of Attorney removes the burden on children should ill health happen further down the line."

"It helps a family deal with bank accounts and so on during a parent's lifetime and ceases on death."

"Crucially, you have to complete a Lasting Power of Attorney while you are still in good mental health."

"If someone becomes ill through say, a stroke or dementia, this option is lost and the family would have to apply for a Deputyship Order from the Court of Protection – a drawn out and expensive process."

"It is therefore a good idea for clients to plan ahead and remove any future burden from the family."

"Once again, all adults should be thinking of this, particularly when there are children or a business involved."

"It's not just something to think about when you get older, that's the challenge for us."

"People think, 'I'm not ill, why do I need to make a Power of Attorney?' But they're missing the point. This is a document that has to be done in advance."



Paul King, Head of April King Legal

"The Lasting Power of Attorney remains in place until you die unless you want to cancel it."

"Once it's registered, you don't have to worry if you then develop some debilitating illness. A burden has been removed from the family at an already difficult time."

Bloodline Trust Wills

The majority of April King's clients have already made standard 'Mirror Wills' with other firms before approaching the Firm. A Mirror Will is when a couple leave everything to each other on the first death, then to the children when the second partner dies. But modern family life means these type of Wills leave a lot to chance.

Explains Paul: "If I have a Mirror Will leaving everything to my wife and she remarries or goes into care after my death then either the new husband or the Local Authority are likely to inherit most, if not all, of my estate ahead of my children."

"Even if my children are named in my Mirror Will, it is by no means certain that they will inherit anything."

"Once again, this is because a remarriage would cancel the Will my wife had previously made with me and make the new husband next-of-kin."

"This often comes as a big shock to my clients who had perhaps thought that all was in order and that the family bloodline would one day inherit."

"The same is true for thinking that their children and/or grandchildren will one day benefit under a Mirror Will."

"If any of your children should die leaving everything to their husband or wife and that son-in-law or daughter-in-law should then remarry, then your grandchildren would be the ones to lose out under the line of inheritance."

"Worse still, someone else's grandchildren would be in line to receive the benefit of all your years of hard work."

"I've experienced this in my own family and I'm sure most people have had similar experiences or heard of someone who has."

"Bloodline Trust Wills give greater protection to your children."

"These type of Wills not only give your children complete control and access to the inheritance they receive from you, they also grant added protection from the twists and turns of modern family life."

"The wording in these Wills states that any money left over on their demise must pass to any children born of them – your grandchildren."

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Great when yow tek me bak 'ome



An early shot of Slade taken when they used to travel down to London



Cum On Feel the Noize – Noddy Holder and Dave Hill in action with Slade during the glory days of the 1970s

'PEOPLE mek places. Buildings are there but it's people who mek places. And people mek the Black Country, them the salt of the earth. I've been everywhere in the world and there's nowhere as good as the Black Country.'

Slade were a product of the Black Country and Noddy Holder is proud of his roots and woe betide anyone who says a bad word about it.

"I speak to people who've never been to the Black Country or the Midlands. They all slag it off. But they've never bin. How the f*** do they know what they're talking about?" says the Freeman of Walsall.

Noddy is reminiscing about the early days as this year marks the 45th anniversary of the band's breakthrough album *Slade Alive* which went straight to number two in the charts. It was their first record to enter the UK top 40 and stayed there for more than a year. It has been re-released to coincide with the anniversary.

He reflects: "I've probably not lived there for 40 years, thinking of the time I left Walsall. It's certainly 30-odd years. But when I drive into the Midlands, if I go and buy a paper in a shop, the accent of the customers makes me feel at home."

He gets recognised everywhere he goes. People in the shops say

ANDY RICHARDSON catches up with rock hero NODDY HOLDER as *Slade Alive!* is re-released

'alright Noddy, ow yow doin'? It's like they know you and them yur mate. They'll tell me to get me hair cut. They still have that sense of humour. So you feel like you're home.

"I tell yow summot. People who live in the Black Country doe appreciate what they got. I know the yooof don't because occasionally I give talks to colleges and schools. They don't appreciate the history of the area.

Chips

"It don't matter where you go in the world, there's few places you get the warmth that you get from the Black Country. I get the same vibe from the southern states in America. There's the atmosphere, the people and the music – it's the same as the Midlands.

"And I tell you summot else. You won't get better fish and chips, or curry, no matter where you go. The pubs are great and the characters you meet in them are the best in the world."

He remembers recording *Slade Alive* as though it were only yesterday. The band had been on *Top Of The Pops* that night. It cost just £600 to make and recorded over three nights at London's Command Theatre Studio in front of an audience, the idea of manager, Chris Chandler, who also produced.

Noddy says: "Chas wanted something to keep the fans interested so we went along with it. He booked us into a studio on Piccadilly in London for three nights on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On the Wednesday we were called into *Top Of The Pops* with *Coz I Luv You*, which was our next single. It was selling like hot cakes.

"So we went straight from TOTP to Command Studios after the recording. We'd done TOTP and had a few drinks. We were buzzing. We walked on stage and the atmosphere was brilliant.

"In the end, we scrapped the recordings from Tuesday and Thursday and just used the gig from Wednesday because it was so good. We captured the raucousness of our live shows on that record. We'd been trying to capture it on record before because that's what Slade was all about.

"It was all about that spontaneous, raucous guitars – we were a real rock'n'roll band.

"Before then, every time we'd been in the studio the engineers would be telling us to turn the amps down because we were always too loud for everyone. But we played at full poke on *Slade Alive*."

The record was recorded in late November 1971 and came out in early spring 1972. It changed the game and earned them the acclaim. And yet, remarkably, they



Glam bam – Nod and co conquered the charts on both sides of the Atlantic

had yet to enjoy the fruits of their success.

Noddy says: "At the time of recording we were all still living with our parents, although we were hardly ever there because we were touring that much or recording in London.

"But the Midlands was still our base because we couldn't afford to move anywhere. We hadn't started making any money at that point."

Slade Alive opened the floodgates and they were sent to Europe to tour. In Australia, the record went to number one and stayed there for six months. "It was only knocked off the week we arrived and released our next album, *Slayed?* We had the number one and number two album and three singles in the chart. It was the same in Canada.

But we were never an overnight success. That was the culmination of five years of hard slog."

Slade experienced something akin to Beatlemania during the early 1970s. From 1971 to 1973 they enjoyed six number one hits, two number two hits and a single, *Look Wot You Dun*, that made it to number four. They breached the USA chart and enjoyed success across Europe.

Noddy enjoyed his time with the band – "what we had was unique" – though he declined an opportunity to rejoin.

"I'd had 25 years with the same people every day. I wanted something different."

● For the full interview see Weekend in the Express & Star on Saturday



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VINCENT & FLAVIA: IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO

PAGE 2

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

FULL STEAM AHEAD!!

This year we bring you a unique experience! An evening with World's largest travelling Concert Organ the 118 key 'Victory', It can play tunes from the oldest Classics to modern pop and everything in between. It will be playing simultaneous with the smaller 73key Organ 'The Locomotion', alongside a Video screen wall showing synchronised pictures. The Film clips include War Time Classics, Comedy's as well as the latest blockbusters.

fabulous Indian craftwork, with Indian dance displays that range from very old style to modern, including the Eagle Dance, the spectacular Hoop Dance and many others.

There will be a variety of Steam Traction Engines, as well as Showmans Engines, Agricultural Engines, Steam Rollers and a selection of miniature Steam Engines and Vehicles.

Exhibits also include - over a 100 Vintage, and Classic Cars, along with Commercial Vehicles, Land Rovers, Motorbikes and Cycles, Tractors, Military Vehicles, Various Model Displays & Collections.

There will also be a variety of Organs from hand turned to fairground.

There will be arena events throughout Saturday & Sunday with various vehicle parades and displays including the Ferret World Road Show presented by the 'Blackcountry Man' with an informative and amusing history of ferrets, and audience participation with lots of children racing against the ferrets and each other in special racing tubes.

The Fun Dog Show organised by Birch Hill Dog Rescue have a variety of classes on both Saturday and Sunday - starting

approximately 2.00pm. Entry £1.00 per dog per class

There will be Service on Sunday at 11:00 Situated by Brian Well's 1895 Gavioli Fair Organ

In addition, there will be Market Stalls, Fair, Beer Tent, Refreshments and Much More.

Dr. Busker will be performing in the Beer Tent on Saturday Evening 8 until Late.

For more information please contact: - Keith Shakespeare, Rally Organiser
Shakespeare Rally Promotions Ltd.
Mobile 07808 173 400

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16th & 17th September 2017

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ADMISSION

Adults - £8.00 OAP - £7.00
Child (5-15) - £3.00 Family Ticket - £16.00
(2 Adults & 2 Children)

CONTACT

07808 173 400

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THE ORGANISERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL OR AMEND EVENTS SCHEDULED

DUDLEY TOWN HALL

Matinee Show
DAD'S ARMY
VARIETY SHOW SPECIAL
Tue 19 Sept - 2pm

MILTON JONES
Is Out There
Fri 29 Sept - 7.30pm

KATHERINE RYAN
Glitter Room
Sat 14 Oct - 8pm

ALL STAR WRESTLING
Special Half-Term Show
Tue 24 Oct - 7.30pm

ROCKIN' & ROLLING
WITH LAUGHTER
feat. Beryl Marsden, Mick Miller,
The Merseybeats, The Dakotas & more
Sat 11 Nov - 7.30pm

MATT MONRO JNR
The Singer's Singer
Thu 16 Nov - 7.30pm

LEE NELSON
Serious Joker
Fri 1 Dec - 7.30pm

JETHRO
The Bull & Bonkers Tour
Thu 7 Dec - 7.30pm

Matinee Show
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
feat. Five Star Big Band
Tue 12 Dec - 2pm

PSYCHIC SALLY MORGAN
Kisses To Heaven Tour
Thu 1 Feb - 7.30pm

PAUL CHOWDHRY
Live Innit
SOLD OUT - EXTRA DATE: Fri 23 Feb - 8pm

DAVID BADDIEL
My Family: Not The Sitcom
Thu 19 Apr - 7.30pm

JASON MANFORD
Muddle Class
Fri 27 Apr & Wed 3 Oct - 7.30pm

JOE LYCETT
I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett
Thu 7 Sept - 8pm

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It's hard work but we were obsessed

Strictly Come Dancing made them household names. But Vincent and Flavia have outlasted the BBC's number one family show by hitting the road for a series of UK tours.

They are back on the road with a new production, Tango Moderno, and will headline Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday until September 23 – with extra matinees on Wednesday and the Saturday.

Tango Moderno is the irresistible new stage spectacular from tango superstars Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace.

Dance partners for over two decades, world champions, Strictly favourites and West End stage stars Vincent and Flavia plan to fuse Ballroom, Latin, and Argentine tango to give fans a performance that smoulders with desire.

Their latest show follows the successes of Midnight Tango, hailed as 'a triumph' by the Daily Telegraph, the 'utterly unmissable' Dance Til Dawn (Smooth Radio) and the 'fabulous must-see' The Last Tango (Radio Times).

Flavia says the dancer's fourth show will give fans something new. "It's always important to try something we've not done before. The fourth time round is difficult because we've done so many different stories."

"But we wanted this show to be more modern, more up to date, so the music will be a little more recognisable, particularly by the younger generation. It's music from the radio, it's set in an urban city and it's got that contemporary vibe. There'll be a story and we'll be part of the narration."

PASSION

Vincent added that dance was his great passion – but staying focused for a long UK tour was always tough.

"Motivation is the hardest part, to be honest. All the people that dance and do this job will agree. When it's live on stage it's great because you connect to the normal people. They are the people – mums, parents and so on – who keep you going."

"And that's great because they keep you sane. You suffer from solitude quite a lot because you're away every week at different hotels. Sometimes you wake up and think 'where am I?' because we travel so much."

Putting together a major new show is tough. It takes weeks and weeks of 10am-to-6pm rehearsals before a technical week ahead of the first show. Flavia says: "You have really long days and there is a bit of adrenalin and nerves. Once the show's up and running it eases off. We tend to do a half-hour warm-up before every show. We have a little time off and people do their own thing, going to the gym, resting or walking. You learn to do that, or you take a massage or see the physio."

Vincent moved to the UK when he was 17 to follow his dream of dancing.

"I wanted to become the best in the world, as everybody else does, so I moved here. It was a coincidence that I met Flavia, who was Italian and moved here at the age of four."

"Every day, we had dance lessons and were training. Our lives were really about that, you know, about competitions and trying to win. We wanted to get into the final and get the world championship. That was our lives."

The couple then got asked to do a couple of performances on Strictly before the show's producer asked them to become a part of it full-time.

Flavia said: "We didn't know how big the

Partners through time – Vincent and Flavia love dancing together



show was. Even now, I can't believe we've been through all of that. It was amazing."

Vincent says: "Before we were famous in the ballroom world and we could walk the high street. Now people stop us and want to have a photo. It was a shock to the system. Since then, we've never looked for work, it's come to us. We didn't think 'shall we do theatre?' The producers came to us and here we are."

Favia adds: "It's been a long road and initially during the first part of our careers it was a hell of a lot of sacrifice. You think back and realise how hard you worked and that we didn't have a life. We were obsessed with the weekend being about travelling to an event and a competition and paying a £40 entry fee."

"Then at 10am we'd do round one and come out at 10pm in the evening. That was the weekend gone. Then it was dance lessons, practice rehearsals and training. Now we look back and it's 'wow'. We wouldn't do that again. My niece is dancing these days but I am so not-pro

You think back and realise how hard you worked and that we didn't have a life

dancing. I know how hard it is and what you have to go through. I'm trying to sway her off. It's really hard work. I know the sacrifice young people have to make in their teens and 20s. It can affect lots of things in later life. But it's worked for us and we've kept going and gone from one thing for another. We were lucky, things could have been very different. We don't regret anything."

The couple have visited Birmingham on plenty of occasions and always feel at home in the Second City. They're looking forward to their return and will be out and about in the city's restaurants and shops.

Flavia says: "We love Birmingham and are always happy to come up there. I remember places because of the shopping. I try to go to Lasan every time, if my husband comes up. He loves Birmingham too and studied there."

Vincent adds: "I used to buy, buy, buy. I'd buy one for the stage and one for myself. My wardrobe is exploding. So no more shopping. There might be a beautiful leather jacket, however, so you never know."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



John Legend



Legend to enjoy Darkness and Light at his concert

Acclaimed, multi-platinum selling, Oscar, Golden Globe and Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter John Legend brings his 'Darkness and Light' tour to the Arena Birmingham on Wednesday.

Featuring the singles Surefire and Love Me Now, the album Darkness and Light was released to critical acclaim in December 2016.

Since its release – the fifth studio album from the American singer – Legend has co-executive produced and starred in the box office smash musical La La Land, which has gone on to win seven Golden Globe

Awards and six Academy Awards. He also performed the title track to the recent Disney live action remake of Beauty and the Beast with the increasingly popular Ariana Grande.

It's worth getting to the Birmingham city centre venue early to catch support from husky-voiced singer-songwriter Jack Savoretti, who won lots of new fans with his albums Written in Scars and Sleep No More.

Tickets for the Barclaycard Arena date are on sale, starting at £51.53, from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

A musician faces greatest challenge

Tom Kempinski's award-winning play Duet For One, about a talented musician struck down by a debilitating illness, is being staged at Birmingham Rep from September 22 to October 7.

In this powerful, moving and at times poignantly funny play, Stephanie Abrahams is a brilliant concert violinist who seemingly has it all, but is forced to re-evaluate her life by a shock diagnosis.

Faced with a truth too difficult to comprehend she consults psychiatrist Dr Feldmann, resulting

in a duel between two razor-sharp minds in Kempinski's ultimately life-enhancing tribute to the human spirit.

The play, which was inspired by the life of cellist Jacqueline Du Pré, premiered at the Bush Theatre in 1980 with Frances De La Tour and David de Keyser and had great success in West End and Broadway runs.

It also had a major revival in 2009 starring Juliet Stephenson and Henry Goodman.

The film adaptation of Duet For One, released in 1986, saw Julie Andrews nominated for the Golden Globe for Best Actress.

Jemma Redgrave was billed to play the role of Stephanie Abrahams but had to pull out of the production due to ill health.

Now the part is being played by Belinda Lang, pictured above, familiar from her TV roles in 2point4 Children and Second Thoughts.

She last trod the boards at Birmingham Rep in East is East.

Oliver Cotton, best known for his role as Cesare Borgia in BBC series The Borgias, will play Dr Feldmann.

Book tickets online at birmingham-rep.co.uk/duet or call 0121 236 4455.



Gary is gagging for new tour date

Stand-up comic Gary Delaney is bringing his There's Something About Gary show to Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday

The Solihull-born comic, married to fellow comedian Sarah Millican, is the only comic ever to have got two gags in the top 10 for Dave's TV Funniest Jokes. His last tour took in more than 200 venues. Delaney, a double Sony Award winner, is a regular on TV's Mock the Week.

Tickets fcost £15. Call the box office on 01384 812812 or see www.boroughhalls.co.uk website.



In the Nik of time for Kershaw's Robin gig

Singer Nik Kershaw will perform in Bilston later this month. The 56-year-old idol of the 80s, whose debut album Human Racing gave him his first UK top five hits with I Won't Let The Sun Go Down On Me and Wouldn't It Be Good, will be appearing at The Robin 2 in Mount Pleasant on Sunday, September 24.

Advance tickets are £25 from the box office on 01902 401211 or online at www.therobin.co.uk, or £27 on the door.

Other gigs to look out for include traditional 70s-style rockers The Quireboys at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms this Saturday, the same night Nick Dagger brings The Counterfeit Stones to the Robin 2.

Deborah Bonham is at the Slade Rooms next Friday, September 22, the same night Big Country, with singer Simon Hough, are at the Robin.

TRIBUTE NIGHTS EVERY SUNDAY

WHAT'S ON

Disco & Karaoke Every Friday Night

Sat 9/9 The Melvyn Hancox Band

Sat 16/9 Thunder Daze

Sat 23/9 Bourbon Alley Blue Band

Sat 30/9 Mr Black

Sat 7/10 The Usual Suspects

Sat 14/10 Eastwood

Sat 21/10 Happy Accident

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Sunday 17th September

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Sunday 24th September

SARAH EVANS @ ADELE

Featuring Sarah Evans as Adele from Saturday at the BBC

Sunday 1st October

ROBBIE WILLIAMS

Robbie Williams Limited Edition Available 2017

Sunday 8th October

TOM JONES

Tom Jones Official UK Tour

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

MUSICAL TREATS IN THE NEW WELLINGTON



Musical fans from across the region are rubbing their hands together for a musical extravaganza throughout September.

Tributes ranging from Freddie Mercury, Michael Jackson and Robbie Williams are set to delight crowds over the next 5 weeks.

The New Wellington in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, is not only treating its patrons to great entertainment it is also a great place to eat, drink and socialise.

Set on the main Stourbridge to Dudley Road, not far off Brierley Hill high street, the venue offers a carvery all day everyday from 12 noon to 8pm with a selected main menu from 5pm.

For the early started amongst us they also offer a buffet style all you can eat breakfast from 8am to 11am, which has been brought back by popular demand.

The New Wellington also offers a Disco and Karaoke every Friday night. So why not come down and have a sing along!!

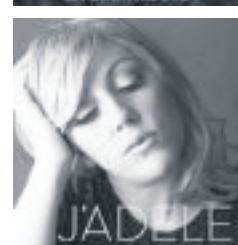
Each Saturday in September The New Wellington will host Blue Rock



Rewind (2/9) The Melvyn Hancox Band (9/9) Thunder Daze (16/9) and Bourbon Alley Blue Band (23/9).

Every Sunday night is Tribute night kicking off on Sunday 17th September with Anthony Edwards as the late, great, Michael Jackson followed by Sarah Evans as Adele (24/9) & then spilling over to Sunday 1st October, 'Let him entertain you' as you enjoy Ollie Hughes as Mr Robbie Williams.

The New Wellington
383 Brettell Lane
Brierley Hill
DY5 3LO
01384 76066



CHOICE



Paddy McGuinness

Even Better Than the Real Thing (BBC1, 7pm)
Paddy McGuinness presents performances by some of the UK's best tribute artists, beginning with doubles of Whitney Houston, George Michael, Little Mix, Amy Winehouse and Bruno Mars, who perform individually and in never-before-seen duets. At the end of the show, the studio audience gets to vote on their favourite act of the night.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Live PDC Darts Champions League. Coverage of four group-stage matches. **4.30** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.40** Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme. **6.10** **Pointless Celebrities.** TV experts Kieran Long, Piers Taylor, Martin Roberts, Amanda Lamb, Vicki Butler-Henderson, Tiff Needell, John Hammond and Laura Tobin compete in the unorthodox quiz show. (R) **7.00** **Even Better Than the Real Thing.** Paddy McGuinness presents some of the UK's best tribute artists, beginning with doubles of Whitney Houston, George Michael, Little Mix, Amy Winehouse and Bruno Mars. **8.00** **Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Last in the series. **8.45** **Casualty.** Dylan's attempt to reunite Sarosi with his uncle does not go according to plan, but while Alicia wants to learn to drive, but a crash course with Elle ends in an accident. **9.35** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes ends up at the wrong venue after trying to gatecrash Maria's hen party. She then tries to impress the bride-to-be's mother during a dinner date, but the evening ends in chaos. (R) **10.05** **BBC News.** Weather. National Lottery Update. **10.25** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Watford v Manchester City at Vicarage Road and Tottenham Hotspur v Swansea City at Wembley Stadium. **11.55** **People Just Do Nothing.** Grindah goes on his stag night, but ends up having cold feet while Beats makes a mistake when booking the stripper. **12.25** **Film: The Uninvited.** (2009) **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The NFL Show. (R) **6.30** How We Won the War. (R) **7.00** **Film: My Favorite Wife.** (1940) A man remarries seven years after his wife's disappearance – then finds his life thrown into turmoil by her unexpected return. Screwball comedy, with Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. **8.25** James Mason: Talking Pictures. (R) **9.05** **Film: Hotel Reserve.** (1944) Thriller, starring James Mason. **10.30** Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) **11.00** Coast. (R) **12.00** Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure. (R) **12.45** Triathlon: World Grand Final. Ore Oduba introduces coverage of the season finale in Rotterdam, featuring the men's and women's elite races. With analysis by Annie Emmerson and Vicky Holland. **5.15** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R) **6.15** **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and his platoon set up an observation post in the local lighthouse, but manage to annoy ARP warden Hodges by inadvertently flooding the whole town with light during an air raid. Comedy first shown in 1970, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) **6.45** **PDC Champions League of Darts.** Jason Mohammad presents coverage of four further group-stage matches from Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, as the second staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. This session will see the four winners from this afternoon's clashes face each other, while the four losers from those contests will be involved in the group games. **10.15** **The A-Z of Later – with Jools Holland: From Adele to ZZ Top.** Highlights from the past 25 years of the music programme, including the TV debuts of Adele and Amy Winehouse, as well as performances by Sting, Chrissie Hynde and Rag 'n' Bone Man. **11.45** **Film: The White Countess.** (2005) A relationship develops between a blind former American diplomat and a Russian refugee in 1930s Shanghai. Period romantic drama, with Ralph Fiennes and Natasha Richardson. **1.50** **Film: Renoir.** (2012) The elderly impressionist painter finds fresh inspiration in a model, but his son falls in love with her. Drama, with Michel Bouquet, Christa Theret and Vincent Rottiers. **3.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Star Wars: The Yoda Chronicles. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.20** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** The X Factor. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live at Doncaster. Including coverage of day three of the St Leger meeting in Doncaster. **4.00** **Film: Bean.** (1997) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** **The Family Chase.** **7.00** **Cannonball.** Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which contestants tackle a series of water-based, obstacle course challenges in the hope of claiming the Cannonball Cup. **8.00** **The X Factor.** Talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, in which solo singers and groups compete to impress judges Sharon Osbourne, Nicole Scherzinger, Louis Walsh and Simon Cowell and win a recording contract. **9.15** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined by some of the stars of The Great British Bake-Off, with old hand Paul Hollywood and new presenter Noel Fielding dropping in to discuss the current series in its new home on Channel 4. Jonathan also chats to the cast of spy comedy sequel Kingsman: The Golden Circle, welcoming Taron Egerton, who reprises his role from the original film as trainee spy Eggsy, and a trio of Oscar winners in the shape of Jeff Bridges, Halle Berry and Julianne Moore. Craig David completes tonight's guest list, and performs live in the studio. **10.20** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.35** **Film: The Nutty Professor.** (1996) Comedy remake, starring Eddie Murphy, Jada Pinkett Smith and James Coburn. **12.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.40** Triathlon: Vittoria-Gasteiz. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **12.25** F1 Meets Jackie Stewart. **12.55** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the Singapore Grand Prix qualifying session (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.45** World's Most Expensive Cars. **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Dunkirk: The New Evidence.** Documentary examining the famous Second World War evacuation of Allied soldiers – codenamed Operation Dynamo – from the beaches of Dunkirk, France, between May 26 and June 4, 1940. Recently released Ministry of Defence files reveal that, far from being absent as many historians have believed, the RAF was suffering massive losses supporting the evacuation. Operating at high altitude and deep inside France, RAF planes were halting the bulk of Luftwaffe bombers before they could reach the beaches. The files also reveal that the famous Spitfire took flight for the first time during the mission, and the agile fighter was a spectacular success. (R) **8.00** **WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails.** New series. Monty Hall reveals stories of Allied soldiers who escaped from Nazi territory during the Second World War, starting with the most successful mass escape of Allied POWs. **9.00** **Film: Super 8.** (2011) A boy and his friends sneak out at night to film an amateur zombie movie, only to witness a train derailment. As people start disappearing from their town and the military descends in force, they come to realise a dangerous alien was being transported on the train and is now on the loose. Sci-fi thriller, starring Joel Courtney. **11.20** **Film: The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones.** (2013) **1.35** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.30** Hollyoaks. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.20** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.55** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.20** **Film: Columbus: Murder, Deceptions.** (1989) **1.15** **Film: Columbus: Murder, Deceptions and Shadows.** (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **6.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents Max and Steve try to recover almost £2,000 owed by the owner of a bridal shop in London, while officers Gary and Cona in Kent chase over £4,000 of vet fees after two neighbouring dogs got into a fight. Elsewhere, agents in south west London, agents try to collect almost £11,500 owed by a small business. (R) **7.00** **Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up.** One-off edition in which the High Court enforcement agents are caught in the crossfire of three bitter family disputes, including a debt-dodging mother who pushes his panic-stricken mother over the edge. Plus, a family booted onto the streets at night by a ruthless aunt, and a man who won't engage with the agents and loses his car. (R) **8.00** **The Great Fire: Death and Destruction.** The worst day of the inferno, revealing how St Paul's Cathedral burned so fiercely its stones exploded and Pudding Lane baker Thomas Farriner made sure no blame landed on him. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Barnsley v Aston Villa at Oakwell, Hull City v Sunderland at KCOM Stadium, and Millwall v Leeds United at The Den. **10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Blackburn Rovers v AFC Wimbledon, and Lincoln City v Mansfield Town. **10.30** **The NCIS Movie: Legend.** Feature-length episode. The agents travel to LA to work with another NCIS team on an investigation that escalates into a high-priority case, and Tony begins to pry into Ziva's life. (R) **12.05** Cricket on 5. **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Ring of Fire.

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **9.00** Black Lake **10.25** Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World **11.55** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.30** Timeshift: The People's Liners – Britain's Lost Pleasure Fleets **1.30** A Very British Map: The Ordnance Survey Story **2.30** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **3.30** Close **ITV2** **12.00** **Film: Sweet Home Alabama** (2002) **1.05** **Film: Daily 1.10** **Film: Sweet Home Alabama** (2002) **2.10** **The X Factor 3.15** **Film: The Incredible Hulk** (2008) **4.15** **Film: Daily 4.20** **Film: The Incredible Hulk** (2008) **5.25** **Film: King Kong** (2005) **6.25** **Film: Daily 6.30** **Film: King Kong** (2005) **9.00** **Film: The Fast and the Furious** (2001) **10.05** **Film: Daily 10.10** **Film: The Fast and the Furious** (2001) **11.10** **Film: Family Guy 12.35** **American Dad!** **1.05** **Celebrity Juice 2.05** **Bromans 3.00** **Teleshopping** **ITV3** **12.00** **Film: Carry On Matron** (1972) **1.05** **Film: Daily 1.10** **Film: Carry On Matron** (1972) **1.50** **Wycliffe 2.55** **Foyle's War 7.00** **Agatha Christie's Marple 9.00** **Midsomer Murders 11.00** **A Touch of Frost 1.10** **On the Buses 2.05** **ITV3** **Nightscreen 2.30** **Teleshopping** **ITV4** **11.45** **Pawn Stars 3.25** **Film: The Pink Panther** (1963) **4.25** **Film: Daily 4.30** **Film: The Pink Panther** (1963) **5.45** **Film: Ferris Bueller's Day Off** (1986) **6.45** **Film: Daily 6.50** **Film: Ferris Bueller's Day Off** (1986) **7.45** **Live Boxing** **Callum Smith v Erik Skoglund** **11.30** **Film: Tango & Cash** (1989) **12.30** **Film: Daily 12.35** **Film: Tango & Cash** (1989) **1.40** **The Classic Car Show 2.35** **ITV4** **Nightscreen 3.00** **Teleshopping** **E4** **12.15** **Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 12.30** **The Goldbergs 2.00** **Streetsmate 3.00** **Don't Tell the Bride 4.00** **The Great British Bake Off 5.15** **The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice 6.05** **The Big Bang Theory 9.00** **Film: Bad Teacher** (2011) **10.50** **Naked Attraction 11.55** **Celebs Go Dating 3.00** **Tattoo Fixers on Holiday 3.55** **How I Met Your Mother 4.40** **Rude(ish) Tube** **Film4** **11.00** **Marmaduke** (2010) **1.00** **The Rugrats Movie** (1999) **2.35** **The Three Musketeers** (1973) **4.45** **Field of Dreams** (1989) **6.55** **Dante's Peak** (1997) **9.00** **2 Guns** (2013) **11.10** **Nina Forever** (2015) **1.15** **Black Swan** (2010) **3.30** **Close**

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CHOICE



Richard Madden
Electric Dreams: The Hood Maker (Channel 4, 9pm)
New series. Sci-fi anthology series featuring stories based on the works of Philip K Dick. The first story is set in a strangely archaic future city, following a devastating meteor shower that has wiped out much of the world's technology. The cataclysm has also led to the development of a breed of telepathic mutants, and as tensions arise between the new race of 'teeps' and the remnants of humanity, war seems inevitable. The only hope of stopping the conflict falls to a human and a teep struggling to suppress their feelings for one another.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Fake or Fortune? (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Podge. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** How to Stay Young. (R) **5.35** Invictus: Battle to the Start Line.
6.35 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 **Countryfile**. Ellie Harrison celebrates the Lake District becoming a World Heritage Site, examining the factors that allow an area to become a protected landscape and examining how local people have shaped the national park. Plus, a look ahead to this year's Children in Need Big Rumble with a father and son who are raising money for the charity, and details of how viewers can take part in the event.
8.00 **Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate the first work of sculpture featured on the show, an unusual piece called The Gazing Head, which may have been made by Alberto Giacometti in 1930s Paris. The quest to uncover the truth is complicated by the fact that the sculpture was once broken into several pieces by a cat. Last in the series.
9.00 **Strike – The Silkworm**. Conclusion of the two-part adaptation of JK Rowling's detective novel. Strike and Robin become suspicious of Fancourt after he makes a revealing mistake during a TV interview, while an encounter at a party leads to further suspicious revelations. The authorship of the fatal novel comes under question, and a literary analyst is called in to examine the test. Matthew is less than happy to discover that Strike and Robin are working together again, while Leonora discovers a mysterious purchase was made on the family credit card.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action.
11.30 Fugitives. (R)
12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** PDC Champions League of Darts. Coverage of the concluding group-stage matches from Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, as the second staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. **4.30** Tribes. Predators & Me. (R) **5.30** Top Gear. (R)
6.30 **PDC Champions League of Darts**. Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the semi-finals and final from Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena, as the players to have progressed through the group stage hope to claim the £100,000 first prize. These matches will take place over the best of 21 legs, as the winner of the second staging of this tournament is set to be decided.
10.00 **Film: Risk**. (2016) Premiere. Documentary following Wikileaks founder Julian Assange over the course of six years during his political asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, as he sought to avoid extradition to Sweden on sexual assault allegations. The programme examines how Assange's situation impacted on the organisation and movement he had created, and the conflicts and contradictions within his inner circle.
11.25 **Film: The Devil's Double**. (2011) An Iraqi soldier is forced to become a double for Saddam Hussein's sadistic son Uday to distract assassins. His new role plunges him into a world of depravity, as he becomes a first-hand witness to the acts of murder and violence Uday routinely indulges in. Drama, starring Dominic Cooper, Ludvine Sagnier and Philip Quast.
1.10 Sign Zone: Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs a new run of topical debate in which a panel of politicians and other guests face questions from the audience. Stratford in east London is the location for the first show, with guests including novelist Will Self. (R) **2.10** Holby City. As Guy's behaviour becomes increasingly erratic, Zosia's concerns put her in an impossible position, and Doña is shocked when her patient has a surprising visitor. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Mission: Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **9.55** **Film: Problem Child**. (1990) **11.30** Robson Green's Coastal Lives. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.40** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **1.10** Catchphrase. (R) **1.50** The X Factor. (R) **3.00** **Film: Never Say Never Again**. (1983) **5.35** Victoria. (R)
6.35 **Regional Programme**; Weather.
6.45 **ITV News**; Weather.
7.00 **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars**. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Professor Green, Sair Khan and Sean Kelly answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.
8.00 **The X Factor**. Talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, in which solo singers and groups compete to win a recording contract.
9.00 **Victoria**. The royal court celebrates the birth of the Queen's second child, but Victoria alone is unhappy as she struggles to bond with her newborn son. A crisis compels Albert to return to Coburg, separating the couple for the first time since their wedding, and on his arrival, he learns a terrible family secret that leaves him plunged into torment. Skerrett makes a disastrous mistake that puts Francetti in jeopardy, while Drummond's relationship with Lord Alfred comes under threat by a reluctant revelation.
10.05 **ITV News**; Weather.
10.20 **Judge Rinder's Crime Stories**. Barrister Robert Rinder examines the cases of six children killed in a house fire that may not have been an accident and a woman who suffered a brutal attack in her own home. (R)
11.20 Liar. (R)
12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Last Man Standing. **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live Build-Up. A look ahead to the race. **12.35** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 14th race of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.10** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live Reaction. In-depth analysis of this afternoon's race. **4.15** The Crystal Maze. (R) **5.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R)
6.30 **Channel 4 News**.
7.00 **Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year**. George Clarke presides over the final categories, for eco-friendly and budget sheds, before the judges decide which of the eight finalists is this year's winner. Last in the series.
8.00 **Speed with Guy Martin: F1 Challenge**. The motorcycle racer joins a Formula One pit crew during the 2017 Belgian Grand Prix, learning the split second timing that allows a team to change four tyres in 1.92 seconds.
9.00 **Electric Dreams: The Hood Maker**. New series. Sci-fi anthology series based on the works of Philip K Dick. In the aftermath of a catastrophic meteor shower, war brews between surviving humans and telepathic mutants.
10.10 **Lee Mack: Hit the Road Mack**. The comedian performs at London's Hammersmith Apollo in a show from his 2014 tour. (R)
11.05 **Film: Slumdog Millionaire**. (2008) An uneducated teenager from the Mumbai slums is only one question away from winning a quiz show, but the authorities are reluctant to believe a youngster from such a humble background could succeed without cheating. Under questioning, he tells a police inspector the eventual story of his life – and how he came to know so much. Danny Boyle's Oscar-winning drama, starring Dev Patel and Freida Pinto.
1.20 The Supertop: Bionic Specials. The owner of a one-year-old cat born with deformed front legs hopes Professor Noel Fitzpatrick will be able to fit it with two new bionic feet. (R) **2.15** Gillette World Sport. **2.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.10** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.10** Building the Dream. (R) **5.05** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.30** Too Many Cooks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wiggles. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** **Film: Open Season**. (2006) Animated comedy, with the voice of Martin Lawrence. **4.45** **Film: Annie**. (2014) Premiere. Musical remake, starring Quvenzhané Wallis and Jamie Foxx. **5.45** 5 News Update. **5.50** **Film: Annie**. (2014) Premiere. Concluded.
7.05 **Before They Were Stars**. Dale Winton treks back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame endured by some of today's biggest stars. (R)
8.00 **Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights**. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce action from the third round of matches, including Northampton Saints v Bath, Worcester Warriors v Exeter Chiefs and Wasps v Harlequins.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 **How Magic Changed TV**. The story of magic on television, examining the challenges of performing illusions for a TV camera that can see everything. Some of the most successful modern magicians reveal the performers who inspired them, and take a look back at how performers like Paul Daniels, Penn & Teller, Derren Brown, David Blaine and Dynamo transformed the art form.
11.05 **When Magic Goes Wrong**. Illusions that went spectacularly badly, including stories of magicians' brushes with death, as well as mishaps involving Dynamo, Paul Daniels and David Blaine. (R)
1.45 SuperCasino. **3.10** Gotham. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Last Night of the Proms from Around the UK **8.30** Secret Voices of Hollywood **10.00** Cinema Through the Eye of Magnum **10.55** Clara Bow: Hollywood's Lost Screen Goddess **11.55** Precision: The Measure of All Things **12.55** Apples, Pears and Paint: How to Make a Still Life Painting **2.25** Cinema Through the Eye of Magnum **3.20** Close
ITV2
11.40 The X Factor **12.55** Take Me Out **2.10** **Film: Step Up 2: The Streets** (2008) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** **Film: Step Up 2: The Streets** (2008) **4.15** **Film: The Smurfs** (2011) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20** **Film: The Smurfs** (2011) **6.20** **Film: Evan Almighty** (2007) **8.10** **Film: Gravity** (2013) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15** **Film: Gravity** (2013) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
2.05 **Film: Carry On Up the Jungle** (1970) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** **Film: Carry On Up the Jungle** (1970) **3.55** Wycliffe **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsummer Murders **9.00** Tonight at the Palladium **10.00** Kate: The Making of a Modern Queen **11.00** Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **1.10** The Knock **3.00** Mr Selfridge **4.15** Griff's Great Britain **5.05** Judge Judy **5.25** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. **3.00** Pavin Stars **7.00** Fishing Allstars **8.10** The Chase Celebrity Special **9.00** **Film: Airplane!** (1980) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** **Film: Airplane!** (1980) **10.50** Car Crash Global **11.50** **Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration** (2009) **1.10** FYI Daily **1.15** **Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration** (2009) **1.50** River Monsters **2.45** ITV4 **3.50** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Don't Tell the Bride **12.00** Streetmate **12.30** My Hotter Home **1.40** **Film: Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen** (2004) **3.25** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** **Film: Home Alone** (1990) **10.00** Naked Attraction **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10** Celebs Go Dating **2.15** Don't Tell the Bride **3.05** Rude Tube **3.35** Holyoaks
Film4
1.00 Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **2.50** Carry On Spying (1964) **4.35** Moonrise Kingdom (2012) **6.25** Battleship (2012) **9.00** The Mechanic (2011) **10.50** Welcome to the Punch (2013) **12.50** The King of Comedy (1983) **3.05** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Drive Angry, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A man breaks out of Hell when a satanic cult murders his daughter and kidnaps her baby. The infernal escapee pursues the leader of the fanatics, who plans to sacrifice the child to gain ultimate power – but he is being followed in turn by an agent of the Devil sent to take him back to his damnation. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Amber Heard and William Fichtner. (2011)

TUESDAY

The Deadly Room: Garage Sale Mystery III, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Jennifer Shannon has a keen eye for a bargain, picking them up at garage sales and selling them for a tidy profit in her own shop. But she also has a nose for a mystery, which comes in handy when she uses her intuitive skills to investigate her friend's death in a multi-million-dollar home with a dark history. Crime drama based on Suzi Weinert's novel, starring Lori Loughlin and Brendan Meyer. (2015)



Drive Angry, Monday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY

My Mother's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Adopted teacher Lauren Coulson tries to find out more of her family roots, and soon uncovers her father in prison for killing her grandfather. He claims he is innocent and her weak and frightened biological mother refuses to tell what she knows. Further impediments seem intent on preventing Lauren from finding the truth. Thriller, starring Nicole de Boer. (2012)

THURSDAY

Abducted Love, Channel 5, 3.15pm

After her husband is abducted on his way to work, Ann Bradshaw and her teenage daughter Casey find themselves in danger when they help the police investigate the kidnapping. Thriller, starring Daphne Zuniga and Nicole Munoz. (2016)

FRIDAY

A Few Best Men, BBC1, 12.05am

An Englishman proposes to his Australian girlfriend, but the antics of his three best men turn the wedding into a disaster. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel and Laura Brent. (2011)

It's a dog's life for the doctor as the series returns

Will we ever grow tired of Dr Martin Ellingham and his adventures?

It's 13 years since the first series of Doc Martin aired, and our love for it continues to grow. In fact, it's been somewhat painful to be without new episodes during the past couple of years.

But now Martin Clunes and the rest of Portwenn's familiar faces are back for a new run, which will also see Sigourney Weaver reprise her guest role as an American tourist, and Clunes' old Men Behaving Badly sparring partner Caroline Quentin return as eccentric vet Angela Sim. Art Malik is also set to pop up as a visitor with intriguing news.

For Clunes, returning as the grumpy medic was a no-brainer – he describes playing him as “the best job in telly,” adding, “what could possibly match this: staying in the West country, surrounded by dogs and people I like?”

“I really love doing this. I love everything about it. I love being in

Cornwall, even though I hate being away from home. If I have got to be away from home then I'd be here. I love being near the sea. I love being out of cities.”

Clunes, along with his wife Philippa Braithwaite, is one of the show's producers via their company Buffalo Pictures, and as a thank you to the people of Port Isaac, where the programme is filmed, they have set up a trust fund to help pay for a few local amenities, including a new car park – after all, the hundreds of people who come to watch them film have to be able to put their vehicles somewhere.

“The crowds who come to watch have to be marshalled but we have not shied away from it because the village is such a part of the series,” says Clunes. “It never bothers me to see the crowds watching us filming. I talk to them, I look at their dogs. The most helpful thing is the dogs. You don't have to talk just about the fact you're on the telly, you can talk about the dogs.”

As you can probably tell (if you weren't already away), Clunes is mad about canines. Sadly, his alter ego can't stand them, so imagine his horror when the Doc is forced to take in Buddy after his wife Louisa tells him that having a dog will be good for their son James Henry.

“The Doc is making a real effort to make things work between him and Louisa, and to be a better husband and father.

“As ever the Doc would rather nothing changed, and is resilient to the notion of change almost for the sake of it, but he sees that having the dog living with them is something Louisa wants, and is ultimately supportive, and actually allows a dog into the house.

“But the introduction of the dog is a token,” adds Clunes. “It's a trial period with strict parameters, and when no-one is looking he throws the dog out...”

Will Buddy eventually win him over? Let's hope so for all their sakes.



Martin Clunes stars in Doc Martin, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

W1A**BBC2, 10pm**

For a while, it seemed that we had seen the last of Ian Fletcher and his Head of Values team. For two years we've been without their hapless machinations brightening up our screens – had bosses at the Beeb decided that the mockumentary's antics made them look foolish? Perish the thought! Thankfully it seems they do have a sense of humour and are happy to poke fun at themselves because the sitcom is back for a third series this week. Once again Hugh Bonneville plays the nice but mostly completely ineffective Ian, who must find a way of making the BBC's new mantra of ‘doing more of less’ work. As ever, he is assisted – or more often than not hampered – by a motley group of individuals played by Sarah Parish, Jessica Hynes, Jason Watkins, Hugh Skinner and Nina Sosanya.

TUESDAY

Robson Green's Coastal Lives**ITV, 8pm**

You don't need to trek to far-flung lands to witness incredible sights and people, as this series proves. This week the presenter travels to the island of Anglesey, off the north coast of Wales, to meet a

family who live in an ancient fisherman's cottage in the Menai Straits that they have restored. Robson also meets a woman who has left her stressful life in the city to set up a paddle boarding company on the island. And he chats a couple who have spent 12 years renovating their dream cliff top home with spectacular views over the Irish Sea.

WEDNESDAY

Bad Move**ITV, 8pm**

Jack Dee may have started out as a stand-up comedian, but in recent years he's dabbled in the sitcom world. Power Monkeys, Josh and Lead Balloon. Now he's back with Bad Move, in which he stars alongside Kerry Godliman, who's best known for playing Hannah opposite Ricky Gervais in Derek. They play married couple Steve and Nicky, who have both been wed before but are feeling a little fed up with their lot. As a result, they decide to swap their city life for a new existence in the country – and soon with they hadn't. The first episodes of sitcoms are rarely hilarious, serving only to introduce the characters and the premise, but this one shows

plenty of promise, and we look forward to seeing how it develops over its six-part run.

THURSDAY

The Supervet**Channel 4, 8pm**

New series. Noel Fitzpatrick and his team return to provide more cutting-edge animal care, beginning with a dramatic emergency. Staffordshire bull terrier Lulu has been hit by a car and had her pelvis smashed into more than 25 pieces. The professor's only option is to pin the larger pieces back together in an operation that will require all his expertise. Noel and his team also treat a giant schnauzer called Florence who has a sore knee, and a Jack Russell called Muffin who has a problem with her back legs.

FRIDAY

Celebrity 5 Go**Motorhoming****Channel 5, 8pm**

The warm and gentle four-part

series reaches its destination this week and who would have thought that following five ageing stars of stage and screen in their motorhomes would be so much fun? The final leg of their journey sees Lesley Joseph, Don Warrington, Melvyn Hayes, Nick Heyward and Cleo Rocos reach the Isle of Skye, or as the Vikings called it, the Cloudy Isle – and the weather certainly lives up to its name. High on the spirit of adventure, the famous five are determined to have a good time and, over a cup of tea and an impromptu jam, the bond between actor Melvyn and 80s pop star Nick is cemented. Meanwhile, Lesley, Cleo and Don spend a day driving around Skye searching for the island's beauty spots, before Cleo rustles up a feast for the friends back in camp.

Celebrity MasterChef

BBC1, 8.30pm

The three remaining celebrities take part in the MasterChef final. In the first round, they must take on one of the toughest challenges in the competition – The Chef's Table, hosted by Michelin star chef Jason Atherton. Then, it's back to the MasterChef kitchen to present a three-course meal to John and Gregg for the final time, before one of the celebrities will be crowned Masterchef champion. Last in the series.

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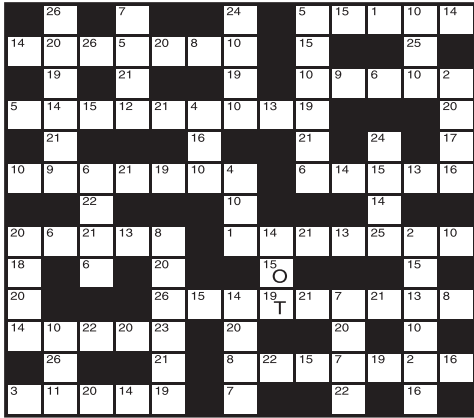
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CLEANING &
RE SANDING

BRAIN GYM

No.447

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	L	2	J	3	K	4	U	5	V	6	H	7	G	8	O	9	Z	10	Y	11	X	12	N	13	I
14	F	15	E	16	W	17	C	18	S	19	R	20	B	21	M	22	Q	23	A	24	D	25	P	26	T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

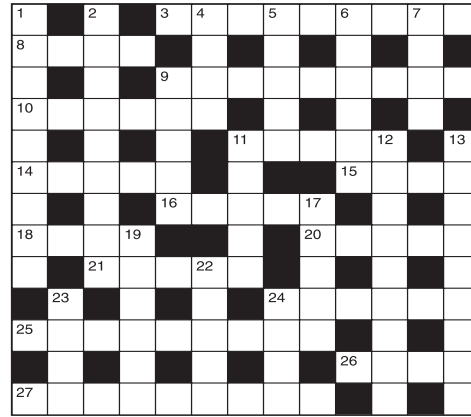
Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. Grieved because date with Cliff completely spoilt (9)
8. Get a dirty look and stagger back (4)
9. Strengthen power to check a horse (9)
10. He helps the golfer - make the bounder expire! (6)
11. Fear of adder (5)
14. Striker in a game (5)
15. Enjoy being similar (4)
16. Will marry - but not under their own steam (5)
18. Charge to a holy island (4)
20. Agree could be keen (5)
21. Have black wood by one (5)
24. The proletariat apparently consists of 1000 donkeys! (6)
25. Tried best room to rent (3-6)
26. There's some lack of coherence in this area (4)
27. I'd enter now as chairman (9)

Down

1. It's a crime to make letters strike-bound (9)
2. The way the boss speaks is over grave (9)
4. Released without charge (4)
5. Obviously not the outside shell of a big ship (5)
6. From the choir in our church or All Saints (6)
7. Engrave, and so on, with hot tip (4)
9. One side is correct, it would seem (5)
11. Wordy apportionment to husband (5)
12. Far from pleased with sets I'd dug out (9)
13. Newspapers indeed put one in low spirits! (9)
17. Exclude beard (5)
19. Sailor employs corrupt practices (6)
22. Famous now Edward has gone (5)
23. Well loved, but at some cost (4)
24. Intend to be stingy (4)



Quick Clues:

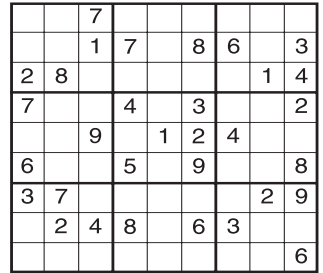
Across

3. Helplessness (9)
8. Implement (4)
9. Monetary (9)
10. Diminish (6)
11. Feeling (5)
14. Suffuse (5)
15. Box (4)
16. Attain (5)
18. Society (4)
20. In front (5)
21. Carrying chair (5)
24. Flowing (6)
25. Tasty (9)
26. Couple (4)
27. Verbosity (9)

Down

1. Sports (9)
2. Agreement (9)
4. Chief (4)
5. Speechify (5)
6. Surplus (6)
7. Applaud (4)
9. Agree (5)
11. Killed (5)
12. Short-lived (9)
13. Preying (9)
17. Pulls (5)
19. After (6)
22. Dress (5)
23. Nothing (4)
24. Ado (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

4	6	5	9	3	8	7	2	1
1	2	8	6	4	7	3	9	5
9	7	3	5	2	1	4	6	8
3	9	6	4	7	5	8	1	2
8	5	2	1	6	3	9	4	7
7	1	4	8	9	2	5	3	6
2	8	1	3	5	4	6	7	9
5	4	9	7	1	6	2	8	3
6	3	7	2	8	9	1	5	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Cuff; 3 Barracks; 8 Ream; 9 Compared; 11 Intersection; 13 Adrift; 14 Stroll; 17 Contemporary; 20 Drawback; 21 Dido; 22 Suspense; 23 Onus. Down: 1 Cardinal; 2 Flatter; 4 Adores; 5 Repetition; 6 Cargo; 7 Side; 10 Profitable; 12 Playboys; 15 Ovation; 16 Smacks; 18 Orals; 19 Odes.
QUICK - Across: 1 Pail; 3 Reminder; 8 Loot; 9 Protude; 11 Indoctrinate; 13 Torrid; 14 Simper; 17 Cheerfulness; 20 Breathe; 21 Fair; 22 Desolate; 23 Else. Down: 1 Palliate; 2 In order; 4 Errors; 5 Intangible; 6 Doubt; 7 Reek; 10 Accidental; 12 Preserve; 15 Prevail; 16 Affect; 18 Heeds; 19 Abed.

Quiz

1. What does the acronym 'laser' stand for?
2. What do the initials AM stand for?
3. Who wrote The Chimes in 1844?
4. What type of bath did its inventor design for his 15-month-old rheumatoid arthritic son?
5. What is the capital of Zimbabwe?
6. What is a sidewinder?
7. Who is seventh in line to the throne?
8. What is a tamarack?
9. What is sometimes called the fourth estate?
10. Who wrote A Town Like Alice in 1949?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Robert Powell; 2 Carp; 3 1997; 4 Four; 5 Ling; 6 100; 7 Natalia Makarova; 8 Buckingham Palace; 9 La Traviata; 10 Joseph.
Niner: SUBALTERN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5285673
41679
52785

gives a hostile outburst,
gives a gesture,
gives a hostile comment.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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A real taste of the Deep South

AN authentic taste of the American south, but in an unexpected place – Hickory's Smokehouse.

I was there not just to sample the food, but to experience the place. It had burned down almost a year ago, and greatly missed by the community, has been rebuilt again from the ground up.

Hickory's in Kingswinford is now every inch the typical Deep South American smokehouse, but with a few unique differences. Entering the restaurant you can't help but notice the homage to the fire that transformed it; a stencilled phoenix takes pride of place, painted on the centre wall.

BOOTHOS

Cosy red leather-clad booths accommodate parties of up to 12, and we were seated in one that gives us one of the best views in the house. The snazzy bar to the right gives customers the chance to sample the cocktails, while the small cinema gives children the chance to watch a film before their food arrives.

Table tennis is on offer in the garden – the perfect antidote to the abundant portions and there's an open-pit cooking spicy sausage.

Though it's one of a chain of six restaurants around the country, it doesn't feel like one. The décor is kitsch and fun. It's comfortable and cheerful.

We were spoilt for choice when we checked out the menu. For starters, I went for the home-baked American pretzel with garlic dip, while my boyfriend David goes for the Louisiana seafood gumbo. When both dishes arrive we (by that I mean I) decide we'll share. The gumbo was a spicy paella-esque bowl of goodness, just the right size, complete with prawns, mussels, perfectly-cooked rice and a sauce with a spicy kick.

The waiting staff, attentive and pleasant can't do

Hickory's specialises in meat platters



enough for us, and advise to have the Smokehouse Platter. Three different types of ribs, brisket, pulled pork with beans and in-house smoked sausage, it's served with skin-on-fries, coleslaw and pickles.

When it came out on a board almost as big as our kitchen worktop, we momentarily regretted ordering the starters. But the brisket was so tender, the Kansas-style barbecue glazed spare ribs so flavoursome, we couldn't get enough of them.

The staff are very knowledgeable in not only where the meat comes from – a family butcher based in Flint – but

also the best kind of hot sauce to go with it. David is braver than I am, trying the searingly hot psycho juice that immediately turned his face pink, while I stuck with the Cajohns sauce. There's so many to choose from, I lose count. But if condiments aren't really your thing (which they aren't to me) then the meat itself was tasty and tender enough to go without.

We asked for a break between courses, and the staff were more than happy to oblige, praising our attempt to finish off the main. But there was a dessert I'd had my eye on from the start. We ordered the cinnamon

sugar-coated churros and I go for the S'mores. This is described as a crushed ginger nut biscuit base topped with melted chocolate and toasted marshmallow. Upon first bite, it seems incredibly rich, almost sickly. But three bites in and I was addicted.

Next time I think I'll opt for a smaller main, just to make sure I fully enjoy it and finish the other courses. But then again, they do offer doggy bags so you can take away a bit of Louisiana with you. The bill came to £60.95 – not half bad for more than half an animal and two other courses besides.

JESSICA LABHART

Back where it belongs – Hickory's in Kingswinford





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MP Austin clashes with actor over Enoch's views

Fundraising after mother's diagnosis



Heidi Fellows, Louise Overton, Ayden Overton and Kerry Round will be fundraising for Alzheimer's Society

A WOMAN has told of her devastation after her mother was diagnosed with dementia – aged just 50.

Dudley resident Louise Overton, aged 32, was only 19 when she first noticed changes in her mother's behaviour years before any medical diagnosis. Jane Wilcox was 44 when she was started to develop dementia, which would eventually take not only her memory but also her voice.

Mrs Overton said: "We noticed things weren't quite right, mum was finally diagnosed when she was 50 and since then we have watched the painful process of deterioration."

Both mother and daughter had worked at Concord Market in Sedgley.

Now on a mission to raise funds and awareness of the condition, Mrs Overton will take part in the Alzheimer's Society's Memory Walk with other family members on Saturday in Sutton Park, Birmingham. She said: "My mum is now on complete bed rest, so I'm doing this walk for her, for other women who will need their mum and for the children who will need their nan."

A walk in hall grounds to help dementia charity

PEOPLE are being urged to lace up their running shoes and get ready to raise funds for charity.

A memory walk will take place at Himley next month for the Alzheimer's Society.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, is on the lookout for residents to take part in the fundraiser at Himley Hall and Park on Sunday, October 8.

The charity is one of three that the mayor is raising money for during his year in office. Anyone can take part, with adults welcome to bring children and dogs with them.

Walkers can choose to take either a two kilometre

or six kilometre route around the parkland.

Councillor Tyler, said: "It should be a great day out, a lovely walk around a beautiful park for a very worthy cause. The memory walks are suitable for people of all ages and abilities, including people living with dementia. It's a great chance for families and friends to come together and raise cash."

Both walks set off at 11am. Children under 16 will need to take part with an adult registered to take part.

To register, go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mayor-of-dudleys-memory-walk-tickets-36657796456

A ROW has broken out after Dudley North MP Ian Austin hit out at a Hollywood actor for suggesting controversial Wolverhampton MP Enoch Powell was not a racist.

Labour MP Mr Austin tweeted the award-winning British actor Ian McDiarmid, after the comments came to light in an interview.

The interview came as the actor, who is best known for his roles in the Star Wars film series, is playing Powell in theatre production 'What Shadows', which has been staged in Birmingham, Edinburgh and London.

By Clare Butler

The play looks at the furore surrounding Powell's notorious 'Rivers of Blood' speech, which was given in the politician's home city of Birmingham in 1968 when he was Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South West.

The play, which opened at the Birmingham REP last year, also features Powell's ill-fated relationship with former Express & Star editor Clem Jones set against the backdrop of the speech.

When McDiarmid was asked in The Telegraph interview by Ben Lawrence what he thought when he was initially asked to play the role, he said: "Oh God, I thought,

that horrible racist." But when questioned if he still believed he was a racist now he replied "I no longer think so".

He added: "He [Powell] was certainly stirring things up in a way, which we would now describe as incitement because of the impact of its language. He was surprised by that impact, but he wasn't totally naive about it. He wanted to make his mark and knew how to speak to an England that was as divided then as it is now."

Mr Austin tweeted: "@IanMcDiarmid_ who plays Enoch Powell in What Shadows is wrong to claim he wasn't a racist. Completely wrong."

Mr Austin said: "Powell was appealing to the worst racist prejudices, and he knew exactly what he was doing."

Brass band concert is held in church

POP tunes will be heard in a church when brass band players drop by for a concert later this month.

Musicians from Black Country Brass will be welcomed into St Thomas' Church, Wednesfield, on September 23.

The band, which has been performing across the region for the past 45 years, will entertain the audience at the church in Church Street from 7.30pm.

Performers have promised guests, who will also be treated to refreshments, to an enjoyable evening of music ranging from light classics to pop.

The band, which has members of all ages, practices on Thursdays at Lower Gornal Royal British Legion Club. It's musical director is Alwyn Manley.

Tickets for the Wednesfield concert cost £5 while under-18s get in free. Tickets will be available on the door. For further details see blackcountrybrass.com or call 01902 731462.

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Duster making its mark among SUVs

Having sold over two million units since launch, Duster, a vehicle with an international calling, has become one of Groupe Renault's top-selling models. Dacia's SUV has made its mark in its segment.

In seven years, it has won over customers looking for a versatile, reliable and affordable vehicle. Duster's powers of attraction are practically limitless. Its highly attractive price, top-level off-road abilities, robustness and design leave no-one indifferent. Read on to find out more about a revolutionary model that has carved out a special place in the wide world of SUVs.

Marketing an SUV at the price of a city car was a bold move. When Dacia made that move in 2010, it hit on a major success. The theme of affordability was the focus of the Duster ad, in which a somewhat caricatural couple ask about the price of Duster after test driving it.

When told that prices start at €11,900, the customer is offended: "You don't think we're going to spend so little?" The Dacia Duster phenomenon was born.

The model sold over 450,000 in three years. Building on that success, the brand launched a restyled Duster in 2013 that met with the same enthusiasm, the car's now enviable popularity being expressed from 2016 on in the advertising slogan, "Another one drives a Duster".

Duster's price was clearly important at a time of economic crisis, but the car's success cannot be reduced to its attractive price alone. The model's intrinsic all-terrain qualities have also contributed largely to its success. The car's design leaves no room for doubt as to



The model has sold over 450,000 in its first three years and a restyled Duster was launched in 2013

its SUV nature. Without being over the top, the styling is that of a true 4WD model. The front end exudes a sense of robustness. The wide, curvaceous wings, double light units and protective bumper clearly express the car's SUV DNA. The raised ground clearance, large wheels (16") and multiple protective features

invite drivers to venture out on the toughest roads and tracks.

The interior is equally outstanding, with a modern, functional and modular cabin. And the impertinence of Dacia's SUV does not stop there, as it features C-segment equipment at B-segment prices.

With the launch of Duster, Dacia confirmed its boldness, first seen six years earlier with the release of Logan. The Dacia brand became a benchmark in new approaches to automotive consumption.

It shook up established cues once again with the launch of Duster, a true, roomy and

versatile SUV for the price of a compact car.

As with all Dacia models, Duster targets customers looking to buy a fairly-priced car, an affordable vehicle with the equipment responding to their needs. In addition to its affordability, the brand moved into a new territory: the SUV market. This served to win over new customers looking for a car with real all-terrain abilities. These new customers include first-time buyers and those who would otherwise have bought a used car. With a new market and new customer base, the Dacia brand is perpetuating its success and even bringing together its own community. The Dacia community organises picnics that every year draw thousands of people in many of the brand's countries. Dacia customers are true fans, highly active in the social networks. More than simple customers, they are the brand's best ambassadors.

Duster was created in response to an observation: a need exists worldwide for roomy, robust and affordable 4x4 cars. But at the time that need was mostly unfulfilled. Which is why Dacia came up with a world first and developed an SUV primarily targeting developing markets.

The needs of European motorists were also taken into account from the start of the project. In Europe, Dacia's success demonstrates customers are looking for modern, reliable and affordable cars. But as a whole, the 4x4 offer, though broad, is more about ostentatious and expensive models – often not adapted to off-road use – rather than functional and affordable all-terrain vehicles.

The Duster story is set to continue with the reveal of New Duster at the Frankfurt Motor Show on September 12.



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Skoda Octavia gains 1.5 l petrol engine



The 1.5-litre engine allows the Octavia to go from 0-60mph in 8.2 seconds



A selection of manual and dual-clutch automatic transmissions are available with the new engine

Skoda has added a 1.5-litre petrol engine to its popular Octavia hatch and estate line-up.

The four-cylinder unit is a significantly updated version of the previous 1.4-litre power plant, and now develops 148bhp and 250Nm of torque.

This allows the Octavia to complete the dash from 0-60mph in as little as 8.2 seconds, and reach a top speed of 136mph.

A selection of manual and dual-clutch automatic transmissions is available with the new motor.

The 1.5-litre engine also benefits from

the same Active Cylinder Management technology that first appeared on the larger Superb.

This kicks in at speeds of up to 70mph and revs between 1,400 and 4,000rpm at a torque between 25 and 100Nm.

When the accelerator is pressed hard,

the two cylinders that were shut off start up again automatically to provide the required additional power.

However, while they are shut down this helps the 1.5-litre Octavia achieve a combined fuel consumption figure of as much as 57.7mpg in hatchback guise with a manual

transmission. This same model also features CO2 emissions of 113g/km.

The 1.5-litre petrol engine is available on Octavias in SE, SE Technology and SE L specifications.

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MG GS Exclusive with metallic paint in Spiced Orange at £20,090 on the road (OTR) or from £234.38 a month based on a 60 month conditional sale agreement and MG3 3Style+ with metallic paint in Ruby Red with White Roof at £12,190.00 or from £162.53 a month based on a 60 month conditional sale agreement. †OTR price of £15,095 applies to the MG GS Explore with no optional extras. OTR prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months "Vehicle Excise Duty". From prices exclude optional metallic paint, accessories and graphics packs. Fuel consumption values shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not be representative of actual driving results. Offer terms and conditions apply.

*0% APR: Conditional sale. 0% APR available on all MG3 and MG GS models until 30.09.2017. A minimum deposit of 20% of the cash OTR price applies on all MG3 models and 30% of the cash OTR price applies on all MG GS models. 0% is not in conjunction with any other offer. Finance by MG Financial Services, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT, subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over at participating dealers. See your local dealer or visit mg.co.uk/offers for details.

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5 Business & Farming

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full time - general

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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07946 383970.



MINI COOPER

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10
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Striker Jimmy Murray, who got two goals himself



How the Express & Star's Sporting Star newspaper reported the remarkable scoreline from Wolves in 1962



Ted Farmer, who in four years, netted 57 goals for Wolves



Wolves captain Bill Slater holds the FA Cup aloft in 1960

Gr-eight way to kick off season as Wolves fly high

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

It was back on August 18, 1962, that the Molineux men began their season with victory over Manchester City

OPTIMISM, enthusiasm and excitement are the emotions all football fans deserve to feel at the start of a new season.

But you can't help but feel that positivity is in short supply for supporters of Yeovil after they saw their team thrashed 8-2 by Luton in their first game on August 5.

The Hatters ran riot on the opening day to send a message to their League Two rivals, and they are now in contention with the top teams of the division.

But they are not the only side to kick off a new campaign in such convincing fashion, as Wolves fans can testify.

Rebuild

It was back on August 18, 1962, that the Molineux men began their season in similar style with victory over Manchester City.

Eager to make up for a disappointing 18th-placed finish in the First Division the previous year, Stan Cullis opted to rebuild his side with the emphasis on youth.

Youngsters Fred Goodwin and David Woodfield

were handed their debuts for what marked Ron Flowers' first game as Wolves' captain.

And while it was a day where everybody shone, it was Ted Farmer who grabbed the headlines after he notched four stunning goals.

It took the striker just two minutes to break the deadlock – with Farmer latching on to Flowers' throw-in before calmly slotting the ball past the keeper.

Jimmy Murray tapped in for a second when he con-

nected with Alan Hinton's low ball into the box. But it then looked like City would make a fight of it when Wolves' George Showell inadvertently diverted the ball into his own net.

Wolves moved to quickly to deny the visitors hopes of a fightback when Farmer again found the target with a crisp finish just before half-time.

But immediately after the interval, Cullis's side took charge with Wolves grabbing three goals between the 47th and 51st minute.

The first arrived when Terry Wharton drove home from close range. Farmer then sealed his hat-trick with another impressive finish.

The forward then grabbed an assist, which was no doubt just called 'a pass' in those days, when he teed up Hinton for a simple close range finish. From this point, a City side with no answers saw Wolves take complete control.

They made it seven when Farmer sent Hinton away down the wing with his cross then being met by Murray for his second of the game.

Then with 10 minutes to go, Farmer completed the rout with yet another neat finish. Wolves season saw them finish in fifth place, with Everton champions.



Ted Farmer scoring after just two minutes against Manchester City

Boxing pundit Bunce back for city encore

RENOWNED boxing pundit Steve Bunce will return by popular demand to the ECC Sports and Social Club in Wolverhampton next week.

Bunce's one-man show returns for an encore at the venue on Showell Road on Wednesday.

The 54-year-old is a regular presence on television with broadcasters BoxNation, BT Sport and BBC Sport, along with writing for magazine Boxing Monthly and a host of national newspapers.

London born and bred but now living in Lichfield, Bunce has more than 30 years of experience and has covered the sport for five separate Olympic Games and in excess of 50 shows in Las Vegas.

He will talk freely during his speech and then front questions from the audience. Signed copies of his latest book 'Bunce's Big Fat Short History of British Boxing' and first novel 'The Fixer', will be on sale at £20 the pair.

Tickets cost £12.50 per person or £100 for a table of eight, which includes a buffet. To secure your place, call 01902 424455.

MP: Take gambling logos off club shirts

TOM Watson has called for a ban on betting firms sponsoring football shirts as Labour pledged to tackle the 'hidden epidemic' of gambling addiction.

The West Bromwich East MP and Labour deputy leader unveiled the policy as part of a series of proposals aimed at protecting children from early exposure to betting.

Mr Watson, who is also the party's shadow minister for digital, culture media and sport, said a Labour government would encourage the Football Association to implement its own ban but was prepared to legislate if necessary.

"Football has to play its part in tackling Britain's hidden epidemic of gambling addiction," he said. "Shirt sponsorship sends out a message that football clubs don't take problem gambling among their own fans seriously enough. It puts gambling brands in front of fans of all ages, not just at matches but on broadcasts and highlights packages on both commercial television and the BBC."

Retiring Motty set for date at Banks's

JOHN Motson's retirement season will take in an after-dinner date at Walsall Football Club.

The legendary commentator hangs up his mic at the end of the season after 50 years in the game. Before then, the 72-year-old will use his famous tones at the Banks's Stadium's WFC The Venue on Thursday November 16. Motson began his career with the corporation in 1968, initially as a presenter on Radio 2. Three years later, he joined the Match of the Day team and remained there ever since.

He will have completed his 47th season when he finally hangs up the headset, having commented on more than 1,500 games for television and radio. He has also covered European Championships and World Cups for the channel, the Euro 2008 final being his last live broadcast.

Tickets to see him in Walsall are on sale at £39.50 or £350 for a table of 10 which includes a three-course meal. Book online at www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc or call the box office on 01902 651 416, extension 416.



Heathens still aim to sign off in style

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger's bid for his side to go out with a bang against Eastbourne on Monday was put on hold when their final home league meeting of the season at Monmore was postponed due to downpours.

The Heathens are set to miss out on the Travel Plus National League play-offs but Pottinger says they are determined to give their loyal fans something to shout about.

They still have the second leg of their Knockout Cup tie with Belle Vue to take place at Perry Barr on Wednesday, October 27 while plans are in place to host their showpiece Golden Hammer individual event to close the season at Monmore Green in October.

Patched-up Cradley were thrashed 60-28 at Mildenhall on Sunday. The Heathens headed to West Row with just Danny Ayres available from their regular contingent, and they were well beaten on a tough afternoon. Guest Connor Coles impressed against his former club, while Ayres was also in the thick of the action throughout. But they had no answer to the Fen Tigers and were second best from start to finish.

MILDENHALL 60: Jordan Jenkins 14, Connor Mountain 10+2, Drew Kemp 10+2, Jon Armstrong 10+1, Dan Halsey 9, Alex Spooner 7+3, Luke Ruddick r/r.

CRADLEY 28: Connor Coles 13, Danny Ayres 7, William O'Keefe 6, Joe Alcock 2+1, Jamie Bursill 0, Lewis Whitmore 0, Richard Hall r/r.

A new date has yet to be set for the visit by Eastbourne.

New academy team sees club join forces with college

STOURBRIDGE FC and Dudley College have teamed up to provide talented 16-18-year-olds with football training and the chance to play at a competitive level and work towards a B-Tec Qualification, the equivalent of two A-Levels.

Around 15 youngsters have signed up and the academy team will compete in the Conference Youth Alliance against teams like Kidderminster, Solihull Moors and Sutton Coldfield Town.

They will attend college three days a week and train two days, under Academy manager John Kearney.

Club vice chairman Andy Bullingham, who has worked on the project for three years, said the education part of the programme is critical. He added: "We needed to find an education provider that could be trusted to teach and develop the lads academically. This was vital so that is why it took a while to get the academy off the ground."

"It is wonderful to team up with Dudley College who are one of the best established colleges in the area."

The academy team's first game at Mansfield Town yesterday (Wednesday).

Rutter is third at wet Silverstone



Brierley Hill racer Michael Rutter

MICHAEL Rutter recorded his ninth podium finish of the season with third place at Silverstone.

The Brierley Hill racer guided his BMW S1000RR to third place at the Pirelli National Superstock 1000 Championship at Silverstone to maintain third overall in the title standings.

Rutter qualified second on the grid with a 2min 10.8sec lap in shortened qualifying session due to a torrential downpour, and Richard Cooper clinched a last lap victory over Chrissy Rouse with Rutter completing the top three.

"It was quite a difficult weekend in terms of the weather," said Rutter. "We hardly got any decent track time during practice and qualifying and I only managed something like 11 laps prior to the race. We didn't get time to work on set-up as no sooner had we done a flying lap, rain came and brought everything to an early end."

After posting the second fastest time in Friday's practice, Saturday's qualifying session was hit by rain. The next round takes place at Oulton Park September 15-17.

Glassboys bounce back at Barwell

Barwell 1 Stourbridge 2
STOURBRIDGE substitute Josh Cooke came off the bench to bag the winner in this fractious encounter.

It was set-up by another Glassboys replacement with Tom Tonks launching a throw into the box with his first touch of the game on his return to the club from Solihull Moors.

The Glassboys took the lead from the penalty spot after just four minutes. Matt Dodd jinked his way inside the Barwell area only to be upended by Liam Kay. RRyan Rowe made no mistake from the sport.

Home keeper Matt Gould was called on after a penalty was awarded to Barwell. He guessed correctly and pulled off the save from Ryan Robbins.

The visitors were awarded a second penalty 12 minutes after the break when Leon Broadhurst charged down a Nigel Julien shot with the use of his arm and Kyle Perry sent Gould the wrong way to level the scores.

Glassboys hit the winner 17 minutes from time through super-sub Cooke who volleyed in Tonks's throw-in.

Stalybridge 3 Stourbridge 1
Liam Dickinson slammed home a penalty for lowly Stalybridge four minutes before half-time after Gould had fouled Tom Brown. Dickinson then made it 2-0 with a low driven free-kick that whistled through the wall and in off the post. Alex Honeyball administered the final blow. Leon Broadhurst bagged Stour's consolation.

Stour's penultimate match is abandoned

IT is in Stourbridge's own hands to avoid the drop from division three of the Birmingham and District League after salvaging seven points from their abandoned match against Handsworth.

There are 24 points separating Brewood and Stourbut Stour must not incur penalty points.

The visitors made an early break through as Handsworth reached 118 for 4. But 20 minutes into Stour's innings another heavy shower put an end to the match, both sides awarded five points each.

Stour take on league leaders Astwood Bank in the final match of the season.

STOURBRIDGE WIN A THRILLER

STOURBRIDGE 30 LUCTONIANS 25
WITH the all-weather surface not being ready, this derby game took place on the second team's roadside pitch.

The conditions were soft after torrential downpours. This made the green grass of home ideal for the Lucs No 10 Tom Jones.

Both sides were brimming with confidence but it was Stour who put the first points on the board through a Chris Scott penalty with just three minutes gone. A fourth penalty was awarded to the visitors by referee George Selwood, one converted by Louis Silver courtesy of an upright for the score to be level on 20 minutes.

Nigel Mukarati forced his way over for his third try of the season. The visitors' discipline let them down again when loose head prop Dan Powell saw yellow on 36 minutes. Stour opted for a scrum and after another shove referee Selwood had no option but to award a penalty try making the score 15-3.

Catalyst

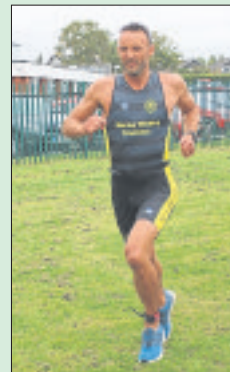
This was the catalyst for a Luctonian onslaught. Amphlett finally dotted down out left and Silver converted on the stroke of half time with 15-10 on the scoreboard.

Scott hit another penalty and Silver returned the compliment. Ben Tibbetts' kick led to more pressure and Stour stole the opposition's lineup ball. Joe Heatley scored out left with Scott adding the extras.

A determined Luctonians side came out of the blocks and started to convince spectators and officials alike that they had the dominance. Skipper Sam Pailor seemed to lose his cloak of invisibility when he saw yellow followed a minute later by Nick Murphy leaving Stourbridge to concede a penalty try. Ben Barkley ran pretty much unopposed to score for an interesting score line of 25-25 with 14 minutes to play.

A vital pass set up a Dan Rundle try on 70 minutes. Luctonians came back strong but when

Gaskin grasps big opportunity



45-year-old Stourbridge athlete Chris Gaskin excels at swimming, cycling and running

A STOURBRIDGE athlete will be competing alongside the likes of Jonny Brownless and Jodie Stimpson in the ITU World Triathlon Championships in Rotterdam this weekend.

Chris Gaskin, aged 45, will represent Team GB in the event on Saturday and Sunday – just two years since first taking up the sport.

However, he nearly didn't get there after failing to register his interest following a race in June.

Gaskin first set his sights on the worlds after winning a series of I events. He said: "In order to get to the championships there were three qualifying events held across the country. To get automatic qualification you had to finish in the top four in any one of the three events."

In June, he finished third in his age category

at the Llandudno Sea Triathlon, an 800m sea swim, a 20Km bike leg and a 5km run to the finish line, which would have guaranteed qualification.

"However, I stupidly failed to register my interest to British Triathlon that I wanted to compete at the world championships, so my result didn't count. Naturally I was devastated, as I had trained so hard for this competition," he said.

A competition in Redcar in July gave Gaskin the last chance to qualify and fifth place over a 750m swim, 20k cycle and 5k, proved enough to earn a place.

"The realisation that I would be racing at such a huge event felt truly amazing. It's been a real fairytale for me," he added.

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